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THE TIMES

EDUCATION
TIMES
Pages 29,31

No 64,180

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18 1991

40p

Croat guards mount defiant last stand in Serb siege of Danube town

Zagreb leaders concede fall of Vukovar

From Anne McElvoy in Zagreb and Dossa Trevisan in Belgrade

CROATIA admitted yesterday that the Danube town of Vukovar had fallen to the Serb-dominated Yugoslav army after an 86-day siege and some of the bitterest combat yet in the conflict.

But fighting was continuing in the heart of Vukovar as up to 1,500 Croatian national guards, unwilling to accept their command's admission that the town was lost, resisted federal troops. The Yugoslav army said its opponents had retreated under heavy shelling to a fortified enclave by the Danube.

The government in Zagreb announced that its forces had fled most of the town, and there was no longer any hope of holding Vukovar, a prime symbol of Croatian pride and resistance. Kresimir Macan, the information ministry spokesman, said: "The biggest part of the town is in army hands. All we can do is try to save civilians." Croat and Yugoslav military officials began holding talks on evacuating civilians and the wounded, according to Ed Koestel, a spokesman for the European Community. He said it was clear that no ceasefire had yet taken hold.

The army command accused Croat national guardsmen of taking hostages, including women and children. "The army has irrefutable proof that during the fighting, Croatian forces have committed great crimes, particularly against Vukovar's Serbian inhabitants," a statement said.

Cyrus Vance, the former American Secretary of State, arrived in Belgrade yesterday with a team of United Nations experts to discover whether conditions existed for deploying peacekeeping forces. Stipe Mesic, the Croat who is the nominal head of the defunct collective Yugoslav federal presidency, called in Austria yesterday for the deployment of UN or EC peacekeeping forces along the Croatian-Serbian frontier.

Romania, Serbia's neighbour and currently chairing the UN Security Council, has offered to mediate in the war. Theodor Stolojan, the Romanian prime minister, had five hours' talks on Saturday with Dragutin Zelenovic, his Serbian counterpart, and Borisav Jovic, the Serbian member of the Yugoslav presidency, met President Iliescu of Romania in Bucharest yesterday.

Croatia, after an emergency cabinet meeting in Zagreb, said it would surrender Vukovar, whose centre is reported to have been almost entirely destroyed in the fighting, on condition that the federal army allows residents hiding inside to leave unhurt. Civilians have taken to their cellars to avoid the air and rocket bombardments which have rained down without respite since Vukovar was cut off nearly three months ago.

Mr Macan appealed for international help and a Red Cross presence to ensure that the army's victory does not turn into a massacre of Croat defenders. While elderly and sick refugees have been allowed to trickle out on the Serb side of the town, there are fears that unofficial Serb forces, including an ultranationalist militia, could perpetrate atrocities when they comb the centre of Vukovar.

About 15,000 residents were left yesterday, among them 500 wounded in the bombed-out cellar hospital and 2,000

children trapped in shelters without fresh water or electricity supplies. Medical supplies, mainly antibiotics and bandages, were being despatched by Red Cross volunteers, who floated them down the Danube. They will be ferried into Vukovar by rowing boat.

Mr Macan said the strongest part of the Croat defence was forced to withdraw on Saturday night and yesterday. "We are worried about what will happen to the civilians. We expect the worst," he said. Serb residents were reported to be going through the streets with the army, pointing out houses hiding Croat fighters.

The final federal assault took place as the 13th ceasefire brokered by the EC came into effect on Saturday night and the guns fell silent in the rest of Croatia. But there was never any hope that the truce could be made to apply to Vukovar, where hand-to-hand fighting intensified last week with snipers taking to the cemetery of the main Catholic church and an Orthodox church and shooting at each other from behind tombstones and church towers.

David Chater, the ITN reporter shot in the back while covering the gun battles there on Friday, was said to be in a stable condition after a five-hour operation in Belgrade.

The army has gained full control of Borovo Naselje, the main Croatian access corridor. The loss of Vukovar is a severe blow for the breakaway republic, which had dubbed it "our Stalingrad" for its long resistance to the army.

Milan Dedacovic, the Croatian national guard commander in the town, has accused the government of Franjo Tudjman of not providing enough extra men and weaponry to save the town, possibly because it has its eyes on a future territorial trade-off with Serbia.

With the prize of Vukovar in its hands, the federal army, backed by Serb irregulars, can now sweep forwards to Vinkovci and close off a triangle of land between the rivers Bosut and Vuka, linking up a line of Serb villages. This will give the Serb forces a firm territorial base from which to step up attacks on the eastern Croatian capital of Osijek, which now fears that it will become the next Vukovar.

Truth the casualty, page 12
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Window on victory: a Serb volunteer soldier guarding a position in Vukovar yesterday

Government rules out rebellion over Europe

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

MINISTERS are now confident that the government will survive the two-day debate on European union this week without a large-scale rebellion. However, Tory nerves on Europe have been further jolted by more sharp criticism from Margaret Thatcher of a single currency.

The potential Tory rebels on greater European integration, who have been outmanoeuvred by the government's care in framing its

motion for the debate on Wednesday and Thursday, will for the most part vote with the government. However, many are planning to warn that it does not mean their votes can be taken for granted on any deal emerging from Maastricht. They will underline the government's difficulties by setting out their own bottom line for continued support.

Mrs Thatcher and Norman Tebbit are expected to come into that category and the government will today be given a foretaste of what is to come by the former housing minister Michael Spicer, who will warn that he has always voted for a common market but never for a common country.

In a speech to the Royal Overseas League Mr Spicer will demand that the prime minister spells out the supposed advantages of political union "and to what end it is now proposed that we sacrifice our national independence and the power of the people through Parliament to rule themselves".

Mr Spicer, a former deputy chairman of the Conservative party with no record of rebellion, adds: "The bottom line

for me is the one which draws the divide between what makes for a single market and what aims at a single state. At one end of the spectrum the list of what is unacceptable is clear. This includes a single central bank, a parliament with veto and initiating powers above those of national parliaments and a single European defence and foreign policy."

He also quotes the prime minister in July 1990 as saying that "a single currency means that this country would no longer have the levers of control over interest rates or exchange rate policy... Delors' package for stage three would involve transfer of sovereignty from the United Kingdom and from Parliament of a sort neither government nor Parliament would find themselves able to accept."

Mr Spicer says that he will vote for the government on Thursday but against ratification of any treaty which makes acceptance of a single currency inevitable.

Mrs Thatcher, in California, criticised the EC as ineffectual. Continued on page 22, col 8

Towards Maastricht, page 9
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Classwork to be 40% of GCSE

By David Tytler, Education Editor

COURSEWORK in some GCSE examinations could account for 40 per cent of marks in future, double the level originally sought by the prime minister and Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary.

Under proposals considered over the weekend by Mr Clarke, his newly-appointed adviser, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach, has refused to accept that there should be an across-the-board limit of 20 per cent on the amount of marks given for coursework done through the school year

and assessed by the pupils' own teachers. Lord Griffiths, a former adviser to Margaret Thatcher and appointed to the council specifically to force through examination reforms which Mr Clarke believed were being blocked by the educational establishment, has recommended that coursework should account for up to 40 per cent of marks in certain subjects.

John Major and Mr Clarke have been determined to reduce the amount of coursework because they believe it is

open to abuse and reduces standards and asked Lord Griffiths, as the new chairman of the Schools Examination and Assessment Council, to oversee a return to end of term examinations similar to the old O-levels. Mr Clarke is due to announce his final decision later this week.

Lord Griffiths has told Mr Clarke that between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of marks should be judged on coursework. Continued on page 22, col 7

Education, page 29

Marlow up in arms over a shamrock sprig

By Tim Jones

A TWIG of shamrock in a swan's beak on a coat of arms has caused bitter division in the genteel Thames-side town of Marlow, Buckinghamshire. Amid accusations that plans to remove the twig are based on anti-Irish prejudice, the dispute may be referred to the Commission for Racial Equality.

The proposal, to be debated next month by the town council, has so incensed Francis Murray, a former Tory mayor of Irish descent, who paid £3,000 for the armorial bearings to be executed, that he has asked the commission whether the council can be prosecuted.

Mr Murray has also told the Liberal Democrat-controlled council that as they are clearly embarrassed by the design, it should be scrapped in its entirety and replaced with a coat of arms of which they approve. He is demanding

the return of the £3,000 so he can donate it to "more deserving causes."

His stand is being supported by Diana McCall, another former Tory mayor of Irish descent, who decided during her term of office four years ago it was high time the picturesque town with its famous bridge and beautiful weir should have its own crest.

When local firms failed to back the venture, Mr Murray and his family put up the money and the shamrock was included at the suggestion of Dr Ellis Tomlinson, a fellow of the Heraldry Society, who said it was customary for the benefactor of a coat of arms to be acknowledged.

A grand reception to unveil the design, attended by Commander John Freemantle, the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, was marred by a protest petition signed by 370

Marlovians and by pickets who carried placards saying: "Get rid of the twig".

As they campaigned for control during last May's local elections, the Liberal Democrats promised that the shamrock would go and were delighted when "an old Marlow family" gave an anonymous donation of the £1,200 which the College of Arms said it would cost to have the offending sprig removed.

Mr Murray said "The crest is obviously an embarrassment to them so I suggest they come up with their own idea. Although my father came to the town more than 60 years ago it seems you have to be there for hundreds of years to be accepted."

Maurice Oram, the Liberal Democrat mayor, believes the crest, which bears the legend - We Strive for the Best - should be retained once the shamrock has been removed.



Beakful of trouble: the disputed crest

Yeltsin swoops to take over Soviet Union's Russian assets

From Mary Dejevsky in Moscow

THE historic transfer of economic power to Russia from the former Soviet authorities took a final step yesterday as Boris Yeltsin published a series of decrees and resolutions designed to secure the economic independence of the Russian Federation and safeguard its financial system.

The Russian measures further undermine the crumbling position of President Gorbachev. They leave the old centre with almost no assets except those which Russia and the other Soviet republics choose to delegate.

The nine documents were transmitted in quick succession by Tass, news agency yesterday and concern everything from control of foreign trade to gold reserves, from the printing of money to wage agreements. The directives take effect immediately unless they are challenged by the Russian parliament.

While the Russian leadership has been threatening to take control of its assets for almost a year, it now has the power and authority to do so. One of Mr Yeltsin's resolutions, which suspends all oil export licences pending a review, caused a sharp jump in the price of oil on world markets when first mentioned on Friday, demonstrating for the first time that Russia is deemed an economic force in its own right.

Shortly before the decrees were published, the so-called "big four" republics - Russia, the Ukraine, Belorussia and Kazakhstan - issued a joint statement effectively disowning the central economic authorities as brokers for their interests abroad. Released late on Saturday through the Russian foreign ministry, the statement said that officials from Soviet ministries were no longer empowered to negotiate on their behalf.

The statement came less than two days before central and republic officials were due to resume talks with representatives of the Group of Seven world economic powers on ensuring payment of the Soviet Union's 40-billion rouble (£40 billion at the artificial rate) foreign debt.

In their statement, the four republics said they would assume responsibility for existing financial obligations,

but would not be held responsible for "obligations taken on without their agreement by all-union and inter-republican organisations in the name of the USSR after the union has in fact ceased to exist as a single state". Together, the four republics account for 80 per cent of the 287-million Soviet population.

The statement went on to say that the four republics "wish to draw the attention of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, Gatt, and other international organisations to the fact that the states whose representatives have signed this declaration have not authorised the USSR to represent their interests in these organisations". The wording constituted an open renunciation of the Soviet centre only days after Mr Gorbachev had insisted, after talks with republic leaders, that the Soviet state would continue to operate as a single

Continued on page 22, col 3

Gorbachev speaks up, page 12
Leading article, page 17

Markets expect sharp fall

By George Sivel

STOCKBROKERS expect to mark share prices down sharply in London this morning in the wake of the slide on Wall Street at the end of last week.

They estimate that the FTSE 100 index could fall heavily before recovering by the end of the day. But the strength of recovery depends on the mood in New York, where further selling is expected this afternoon.

Central bankers around the world regard Wall Street's fall on Friday night as largely self-contained in a market that was already overvalued and very near its peak. However, they would not be surprised by sharp marking down and modest selling pressure in the Far East and Europe.

Leading article, page 17
London mark-down, page 23

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Army bandsmen defy bombers and continue their tour

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE 27 bandsmen of the Blues and Royals took the stage of a Manchester theatre last night determined to play on less than 48 hours after finding themselves targets of a bomb which killed their attackers in St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Yesterday Major Roger Tomlinson, their musical director, said the band continued playing on Friday after the blast nearby. They were aware of what the noise might be and only stopped when police called for an evacuation. The audience first insisted on standing to give the band thunderous applause and lined the road as their coach left, still clapping.

"All the time we have a public like that to play for it makes me proud to do the job I am doing," said the major, whose band plays at public concerts two or three times a week in the autumn and winter.

The band's members, target for an attempted attack last June, were asked by Major

Tomlinson at the weekend how they felt. He said although some of his men were shocked and others were apprehensive they were all determined the show would go on "especially given the public response." Today they will continue their programme with a concert in Bradford.

As they prepared to play last night at the Tameside theatre in Ashton-under-Lyne amid heightened police security Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, visited the scene of the St Albans bombing, where a couple died, and said: "Those who live by terror will die by terror. Here the victims are the culprits. We are dealing with vile and wicked people who perpetrate them. The police are now fairly clear that the two bodies are the people who were actually priming the bomb."

Scotland Yard detectives suspect that the man and woman were part of an IRA active service unit living secretly in the bed-sitter land of north London within easy

reach of St Albans by road or rail. In the past two years police have built up evidence that active service units have been using a network of bedsitters rented out for three or six months across north-west London and a number have been identified. If the bombing had been successful the bombers could have been on their way back to London via the motorway network as the device exploded.

Yesterday, as police made a fresh appeal for public help in trying to identify the couple and for any sign of a getaway car, an intensive search of the bombing scene outside a disused bank in the St Albans civic centre complex continued. Security round the St Albans concert on Friday was tight, leading police to believe that the bombers realised they could not get close to the concert hall and had to think of other ways to reach the band. The concert began at 8pm and was due to end at about 10.15 pm. The site was checked in mid-evening and nothing found.

by the bank at that stage. Police believe the couple died as they primed the bomb, possibly hidden in a bag, at about 9.55pm. The bomb contained up to 7lb of Semtex and a timer for little more than 15 minutes. It may have been intended to be activated by the removal of a wooden pin which set the timer running, giving the bombers time to escape.

His views were endorsed by the Roger Pannone, chairman of the conference, and a leading solicitor in the field of litigation arising from major disasters. He recalled one solicitor telephoning him during the legal action concerning Opren, the anti-arthritis drug, and asking how to go about issuing a writ.

Stephen Perrett, of Davies Arnold Cooper, said: "As the legal aid bill looms ever larger it is subsidising greed and inefficiency. There are reputable litigators and they should be recognised as such, rather than every Joe Bloggs conveyancer in the High Street, who has in some cases never even been in a court, adding to the problems of our clients."

Mr McIntosh, speaking at the conference "Cases of Utmost Urgency", organised by the Northern Circuit of the Bar and the Manchester and Liverpool Law Societies, called for tougher policing of the legal profession to ensure that only those capable of doing work in specialist fields be allowed to do so.

Lawyers warn of novices in court

By LIN JENKINS

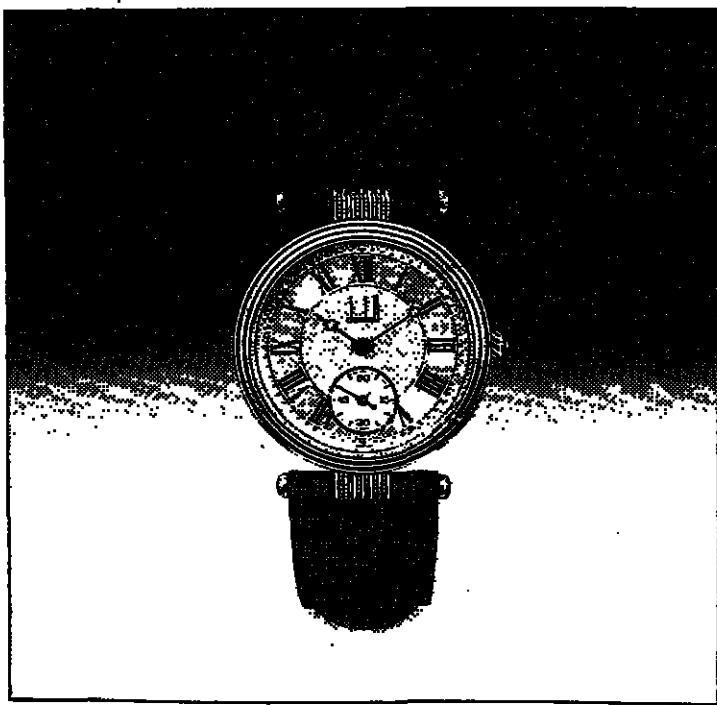
LEADING lawyers are demanding tougher rules to protect the public from inexperienced solicitors who are turning in record numbers to litigation as their traditional work of conveying dries up in the poor economic climate.

They claim that poorly-trained and incompetent solicitors joining American-style group legal actions are costing their clients, and the legal aid fund, a fortune for doing little. The results, they maintain, are already in evidence with the increase in negligence claims against non-specialist litigation solicitors.

The problem was debated at the weekend at a conference at Manchester University where David McIntosh, senior partner in Davies Arnold Cooper called on the Law Society to recognise the specialisms of particular solicitors "in order to protect the public from the incompetence of too many of these 'me too' lawyers".

He noted that with the emergence of large group damages claims, more and more solicitors were becoming involved in areas where they had no experience. The current tranquilizer addiction action involved no fewer than 1,700 different claims.

"Non-specialist lawyers in



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Widow's grief: Paula Magee, widowed on her fourth wedding anniversary, follows her husband's coffin

Killings revive calls for internment

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE three latest victims of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland were buried yesterday amid renewed speculation about a return of internment of terrorist suspects without trial.

The funerals of Fergus Magee and Dessie Rodgers, both Roman Catholics, and John Lavery, a Protestant, took place in their home town of Lurgan, Co Armagh. All three were shot by the Loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force on Thursday night in retaliation for four IRA murders earlier last week. Speaking at the

funeral of Mr Magee, the Most Rev Francis Brooks, Roman Catholic Bishop of Dromore, urged that there should be no retaliation for killings which he said were designed only to increase tension between the two communities.

"I beg all people whatever their religious allegiance to make clear their condemnation of these murders and to discourage by every lawful means in their power anyone urging retaliation," Bishop Brooks told hundreds of mourners. "Let no one think of putting any more families

through the agony and sorrow suffered by these Lurgan and Craigavon families and by the many in Belfast recently."

Yesterday, it seemed unlikely that the government would support the re-introduction of internment, a policy tried in the province between 1971 and 1975 to disastrous effect, partly because it was executed poorly. Senior army and RUC officers are believed to have been reluctant to accept their advice, barring a massive deterioration in the situation.

Ministers appear to accept the argument of critics who say internment would only inflame the situation, would further revive militant republicanism and provide the IRA with a badly needed rhetorical stick to use against Britain in its propaganda war.

Elsewhere in Northern Ireland yesterday police recovered a mortar tube near Kilturk in Co Fermanagh. The weapon is believed to have been fired at a police patrol in the area on Saturday night but hit a concrete gate post, causing no injury.

Prince visits furthest reaches of his domain

THE Prince of Wales, as Duke of Cornwall, will pay a formal visit to the furthest reaches of his domain tomorrow when he attends the centenary celebrations of the Council of the Isles of Scilly. The programme includes a service in the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, a walk about and civic reception in the town hall of St Mary's.

As the inhabitants of what they like to call the fortunate islands are quick to point out, they are not part of Cornwall. They share police and health authorities and some library services, but otherwise are administratively independent, an arrangement unique in the United Kingdom.

The entire archipelago, which is owned by the Duchy, is designated an area of outstanding natural beauty, and supports several species of birds, mammals and plants which do not occur on the

mainland. Only six of the islands, including Tresco, with its famous sub-tropical gardens, are inhabited; the remaining 49 are all classified as sanctuaries to which access is restricted at certain times of the year.

The islands, 28 miles from Land's End, are the rocky peaks of a single submerged land mass, and there are indications that some of the inundations may have occurred relatively recently. Speculation that they were the Hesperides, or the Isles of the Blest, of Greek and Roman mythology, inspired by the exceptional number of ancient burial mounds, is now discounted, as is the legend that they are the remnants of the lost land of Lyonesse ruled by King Arthur from his castle at Tintagel and later destroyed by some natural catastrophe.

The Spanish Armada was ordered in 1588 to seize the islands as the first step in its planned invasions of Britain. In 1646 Prince Charles, later Charles II, fleeing from Cromwell's army, spent six weeks at Star Castle before embarking for France, and the islands remained the last bastion of the Royalists in England.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the islanders lived for the most part in wretched poverty, relieved only by the plunder from numerous shipwrecks. They even petitioned the public through the columns of *The Times* to relieve their "extreme distress".

Tourism - 100,000 people a year visit the islands - and the commercial growing of flowers and potatoes for mainland markets have since come to their rescue, but they are not without problems. One of the biggest is an acute housing shortage. Although the total population is fewer than 2,000, the demand from second-home owners has pushed prices beyond the means of young working couples.

The cost of living is high because most goods have to be ferried from the mainland. There have been complaints of high-handed behaviour by visiting trawlers last year after a spate of thefts from yachts in St Mary's harbour.

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Hampstead takes on car owners

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

HAMPSTEAD will be given back to the chattering classes this morning when the local council launches an onslaught on the commuters who have threatened to take over London's best known village.

In recent years the steep and narrow streets where Keats once trod have become clogged by commuters exploiting the lack of parking restrictions to leave their cars close to the centre of London. Even the prospect of a journey to the City on the notorious Northern Line has not been enough to deter the motorised invaders so Camden council has decided on yet tougher action.

From this morning anyone wanting to park in Hampstead between 9am and 8pm will have to buy parking vouchers at 60p per half hour. Failure to display a voucher in a wind-screen will bring a £30 instant fine although residents will be able to buy annual parking permits at £75 a year.

The scheme has outraged some residents, who now face the prospect of paying to leave their Volvos on the street while they shop or pop into one of the area's charming

restaurants. But the council insists that action is needed. Bill Saunders, vice-chairman of Camden's planning and transport committee, said: "With its narrow streets, the Hampstead area suffers more than most and the present disorganised parking on street corners and at junctions cannot be allowed to continue."

By selling vouchers through newsagents and other local outlets the council has avoided the need to put up parking meters or to clutter streets with "pay and display" machines.

Disgruntled Hampstead residents may take some comfort from the experience of the burghers of Bath and Brighton. Bath introduced parking vouchers four years ago.

Avon county council, which runs the scheme, says it has been a great success, encouraging people to use car parks or to move on after a brief visit to the city centre.

Brighton, which was the first town to replace meters with vouchers, is even more ecstatic about the scheme. "We are glad Hampstead has finally caught on to a very good idea," said a council spokeswoman.

Welsh fear new oil province off coast

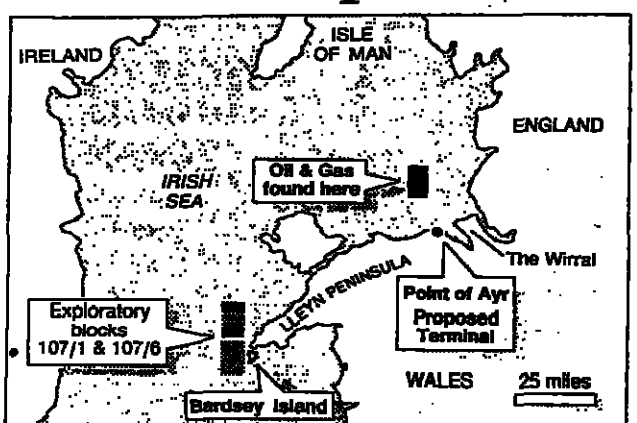
By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A PLAN to build an oil terminal on a protected part of the Welsh coast has highlighted environmental worries about the Irish Sea becoming a new oil and gas province.

Conservation groups are opposing the proposal by Hamilton Brothers, which brought ashore the first North Sea oil in 1975 and has made the first significant strike of commercially recoverable oil in the Irish Sea, in Liverpool Bay.

Two things worry conservationists. The first is that the economic pressure to develop oil and gas finds may overturn environmental safeguards. Hamilton wants to site the terminal on a part of the Clwyd coast recently designated by the county as "green barrier land", unsuitable for development. Despite opposition from residents, some members and officials of the county council favour waiving the ruling because of the jobs and investment the terminal would bring.

The second concern is that drilling will be much closer inshore than generally in the North Sea. The oil find is 15 miles out, compared with 80 to 200 miles for many of the North Sea fields. Next year, Hamilton will begin drilling five miles from Bardsey Island, a bird reserve at the



tip of the Llyn peninsula, recognised as one of the most beautiful stretches of coastline in North Wales. It will do so under licences granted by the energy department 18 months ago despite opposition from the Nature Conservancy Council, at that time the government's conservation advisory body.

The oil and gas future of the Irish Sea is seen by some environmentalists as highlighting Britain's lack of a coastal policy. Nancy Harrison, marine policy officer for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "These are vulnerable and important parts of the coast for nature conservation, and there could be considerable dangers locally of oil spills, yet there is no strategic planning taking this into account. The government should consider what they

are putting at risk before they just develop these resources as rapidly as possible."

Roger Mowll, spokesman for Hamilton, said the company recognised that the coastline was valuable. "We are particularly anxious to understand people's concerns," he said, adding that development would be undertaken step by step in consultation with legitimate environmental interests.

Hamilton has a long record of success in oil and gas exploration in the North Sea and turned its attention to the other side of Britain last year, when it began exploring Irish Sea block 110/13, which at its closest points is about 12 miles from the Clwyd, Wirral and Lancashire coasts. In July last year it discovered a big natural gas field. Shortly afterwards, the company

made the first significant oil strike in the waters between Britain and Ireland. It is guarded about the exact amount but describes it as substantial.

The company wants to bring oil and gas ashore through a terminal at Point of Air in Clwyd, on the tip of the Dee estuary, one of the most important places in Europe for wildfowl and wading birds, with three protection designations.

The company says it is technically and environmentally the most suitable site, but objections have come from the Dee Estuary Conservation Group, representing 22 wildlife bodies, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Council for the Protection of Rural Wales. The countryside council for Wales, the government's advisers, has issued a holding objection and is considering its position.

Clwyd county planning committee will consider the application next month. If it permits itself to depart from the green barrier land designation, the Welsh Office will need to give consent. David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, has declared "an interest in the affair because of objections to the terminal from his constituents across the Dee in the Wirral, so the matter would be handled by the minister of state, Sir Wyn Roberts.

PC held in customs swoop

A POLICEMAN was among 20 arrested yesterday in a customs swoop on an alleged £5 million gaming machine fraud.

More than 300 video poker machines were seized from 200 pubs, clubs and other premises in north London, Customs and Excise said. The operation, codenamed Jams, involved customs men, the Metropolitan Police complaints squad and Hertfordshire police and began at dawn, lasting into late afternoon.

Eighteen men and two women, all British and one said to be a serving Metropolitan police officer, were being held at London Customs offices last night. Customs and Excise said that the raids marked the culmination of a nine-month VAT investigation into an organisation supplying the machines.

It is alleged the premises involved did not have gaming licences and did not pay VAT or gaming tax on takings. "The loss to the revenue is put at £5 million," a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

£500,000 in jewels taken

A jeweller in Hatton Garden, London, was robbed of £500,000 of gold jewellery yesterday by a man armed with a gun who told him that his wife had been kidnapped and would be harmed if he did not co-operate.

John Carter, owner of S & L Jewellers, was forced to unlock his safes in the shop. The robber, who was a crash helmeted, handcuffed Mr Carter and tied his legs together. Mr Carter later freed himself and raised the alarm. Police found his wife had not been kidnapped.

Two killed in coach crash

A man and a woman were killed instantly last night when their Ford Fiesta collided with a coach and burst into flames on a road outside Brands Hatch motor racing circuit in Kent.

"The driver of the 53-seater private coach, which had no passengers on board, was instant but was treated for shock at the scene. One fire officer said: "The car was badly under the coach. It was badly crushed. There was nothing we could do for the two people."

PGs stabbed in struggle

Four policemen were taken to hospital, two with stab wounds, when they tried to arrest a man believed to have a gun, at a house in Croydon, south London, yesterday. The four male officers were treated at the Mayday hospital, in Croydon.

One had two stab wounds to the back, another had a stab wound in the side and a head injury, a third was bitten on the leg, and a fourth was suffering from shock. A man aged 24 was arrested. A gun found at the house was found to be a replica.

DPP sells house

Sir Allan Green, the former Director of Public Prosecutions who resigned over allegations of kerb-crawling, has put his house in Primrose Hill, London, up for sale at £725,000. Sir Allan, who received a £20,000 pay-off after his resignation, had owned the five-storey Victorian house for 20 years. Agents said the house, which includes a self-contained "granny flat", had been "well maintained".

Factory blaze

A garage and a dye works were destroyed in a blaze in the City of London yesterday. More than 60 firefighters tackled the fire in Chequer Street, near the Barbican arts centre, and at one stage had to pull back after fears the building might collapse. One fireman was slightly injured and treated at the scene. The cause was under investigation.

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Anti-graffiti paint cover-ups blamed for fireball deaths

By TONY DAVE

SOME fatal fires in large buildings such as tower blocks are being blamed on paint which has built up in several layers in long staircases and corridors. The risk that such paint could create a fireball within a minute of catching alight was highlighted by some experts after the King's Cross fire, which killed 31 people four years ago today.

The government has ordered the Fire Research Station at Borehamwood, Hertfordshire, to investigate the question. The result could require the expensive renovation of many apartment blocks, office buildings, schools and hospitals.

Gary Duggan, a fire consultant, said: "The research is welcome, but if only the King's Cross investigation had been more positive, the hazards associated with paint film would have become more widely recognised and some lives could have been saved."

Mr Duggan was materials adviser to London Underground at the time of the King's Cross disaster and has since carried out many large-scale fire tests on paint.

One of the lives which he believes could have been saved was that of Raymond Assouline, a student aged 22 who fell to his death trying to escape a fire at Wickway Court, Southwark, south London, earlier this year. The fire started in a sofa dumped at the bottom of the tower block's stairwell and, it is believed, quickly ignited the multi-layered paint, creating a fireball which raced up the stairwell and along corridors.

Southwark council acted

quickly after receiving scientific advice that anti-graffiti paint applied on top of old paint was the probable cause of the fireball. It stripped walls coated with similar paint in other tower blocks back to the plaster and applied one layer of fire-retardant paint.

It is still awaiting the results of a Fire Research Station investigation into the blaze, but a spokeswoman said: "As soon as housing chiefs learnt that the paint layers were a probable cause, they decided to remove them from other council buildings as quickly as possible. It is better to be safe than sorry."

Sally Keble, the council leader, said: "The Wickway Court fire was a terrible tragedy and has major implications for housing throughout inner London."

Philip Graves, an executive of Tor Coatings, a specialist paint company, says that the Southwark fire was one of several with similar characteristics which occurred in the stairwells and corridors of tower blocks.

He says in the current issue of *Fire Prevention Magazine* that the fire hazard of walls and ceilings increases with the addition of each decorative finish, and that the usual remedy for dealing with graffiti has been to paint over offending phrases whenever they appeared.

"If this happened, for example, once a month, with an overall redecoration every six years, some areas of wall could have 72 coats of paint added to the original layer," he says.

Mr Graves adds that a fire close to these layers of paint

will create a fast and intense build-up of heat in the air, similar to that of a DIY hot-air stapler. "Swelling of successive films will result in the coatings coming into contact with flames and the result could be flash fire or fireball effects."

However, Stanley Ames, the scientist in charge of the Fire Research Station investigation, said it was too early to conclude that layers of paint create the intensity of heat claimed by some other experts.

Mr Duggan and his former colleagues at London Underground believe the government investigation should have begun much earlier. They are convinced that the small fire which started beneath an escalator at King's Cross developed into a fireball because of many layers of paint on the ceiling of the escalator shaft.

They complain that the Health and Safety Executive failed to take samples of the paint at the start of the investigation and were reluctant to accept its significance afterwards, a view confirmed by the official investigation into the disaster.

Sir Keith Bright, former chairman of London Transport, said yesterday: "Our attempts to alert the official investigation to the dangers of the paint were dismissed as an attempt to avoid blame."

"That was an appalling attitude, because we could be criticised equally for applying layer after layer of paint to the ceiling. We just wanted lessons to be learned and future tragedies avoided."



Show of hands: children from the Sylvia Young theatre school who, with a medley from *Oliver!*, will open a gala at the Players Theatre, central London, tonight to raise money for the BBC Children in Need appeal. The gala, with a Victorian theme, will also feature music hall acts

Drivers lose millions to bogus debt agencies

By KEVIN EASON MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S biggest finance lenders are trying to crack down on fraudulent vehicle transfer agencies, who are swindling millions of pounds from motorists unable to keep up payments on cars.

The lenders are warning drivers to avoid vehicle transfer agencies who offer to take on their debts — as long as they take the car too.

The Finance Houses Association, which is to start a consumer detection agency, has more than 620 cases on

file in which the repayments have not been kept up by the transfer agency, leaving the motorist with a debt but no estimated £4.4 million. The police are also investigating 189 alleged cases of fraud involving transfer agencies. The association is worried that hundreds more cases will appear as the effect of the recession becomes clear.

Although no figures are available for car repossession, there are more than five

million motor finance deals with payments outstanding. More than 1.8 million credit agreements were signed in the year to September, accounting for 57 per cent of new and used car deals. Analysts believe that up to one in 12 car owners using finance could be in serious arrears, which would be more than 400,000 people. Companies have become victims too.

Neil Grant, the association's director, said: "The scale of the problem is grow-

ing at a disturbing rate. There is a strong fly-by-night element in all this and vehicle transfer agencies are operating in a legal twilight. Handing over the car to an unknown company is very dangerous."

The association says that some agencies sell the cars they have taken to unsuspecting buyers.

The Office of Fair Trading has warned consumer credit licence holders about acting as vehicle transfer agencies and is also warning the public to

beware. Even though a car is handed over, in law the debt cannot be transferred to a third party.

Finance companies are now entering the names of vehicle transfer agencies on a computer register to ensure they are not carrying out fraudulent deals. The register is operated by Infomark, Britain's biggest credit information business.

The Times refuses to carry advertisements for vehicle transfer agencies on the advice of the association.

UK bosses travel in style

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH businessmen struggling to survive the recession, still demand the best when travelling for their company.

More British directors are entitled to first-class air travel than their rivals in France, Germany or Switzerland, according to a detailed survey for American Express.

Thirty-five per cent of British directors fly in luxury of first class, compared with only 19 per cent from France, says the survey which studied returns from more than 2,000 companies. The survey also shows that 60 per cent of senior British managers fly in business class, compared with 42 per cent from Germany.

Seventy-nine per cent of British directors stay in five or four-star hotels compared with 33 per cent from France — a privilege also given to 64 per cent of senior UK managers compared with only 18 per cent from France.

Britain spent 5.8 per cent of its gross domestic product on travel and entertainment last year compared with 4.4 for The Netherlands, 4.3 for Germany, 4.1 for France and only 2.8 for Switzerland.

Orkney enquiry may be speeded

By KERRY GILL

THE future credibility of the Orkney judicial enquiry could depend on a decision today by the island's council on whether it can afford to continue being legally represented.

The enquiry, into how nine local children were seized from their homes earlier this year after allegations of sexual abuse, has already cost £2 million since it began at the end of August and is expected to cost between £10 million and £12 million if it continues for more than a year. Some lawyers believe it could last until March 1993.

The council's bill is running at £36,000 a week and its members will be asked to vote on a motion to pull out unless funding is provided by the government. The Scottish Office has already refused to take on funding for Paul Lee, the council's social work director, who has been left without legal counsel. His costs had been met by the British Association of Social Workers, but the association said last week that it could no longer afford the legal fees.

If Orkney decides it can no longer afford representation,

Strathclyde regional council may also pull out. There is speculation that other groups, such as Highland regional council and the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, might then feel it was not worth continuing. The huge cost of the enquiry clearly was not foreseen by the government, which believed it would last only a few months. There has also been criticism of fees charged by lawyers.

Today Lord Clyde, the enquiry chairman, is expected to make an announcement about the structure of the enquiry. It is thought that he is anxious to speed things up.

Later this week, Orkney council hopes to meet Michael Forsyth, the Scottish health minister, when a delegation will plead for government funding. The government agreed at the outset to pay the legal costs for Sue Millar, the senior social worker behind the seizures, and was forced to take over the costs of the RSSPCC when it said it could no longer afford legal representation.

Behind the mask, page 15

Impresario makes no show about being a top earner

By LIN JENKINS

FOR a man who started his career earning £14 a week after leaving college, Cameron Mackintosh will give scant attention to the news that he is one of the country's highest paid businessmen.

He is named in the Brown Shipley Growth Companies register, which identifies the top 2,000 fastest growing private companies and earnings of those who run them, as probably the second highest paid director. The register does not disclose how much he earned, but concludes that since Mr Mackintosh and his two fellow directors shared £6,500,000, it was reasonable to assume that the lion's share went to the name on the headed note paper.

The theatrical impresario and producer of musicals is said to have a personal fortune in excess of £60 million, and, like many men with the Midas touch, prefers to work rather than worry about how to spend its rewards.

With no wife or family to support, Mr Mackintosh could spend all the money on himself. Maybe he feels in need of a new home to go



Mackintosh: ploughing cash back into West End with his turreted Nash house overlooking Regent's Park, his Scottish island, his house in Hampshire and six beds in the roomed farmhouse in the South of France.

However, the 45-year-old son of a half-Scottish timber merchant and his Maltese wife, is more likely to continue funding his singular passion, the theatre. With successes such as *Cats*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Miss Saigon*, *Les Misérables* and *Five Guys Named Moe* running in the West End, Mr Mackintosh has developed an interest in ploughing his money back into the West End theatre.

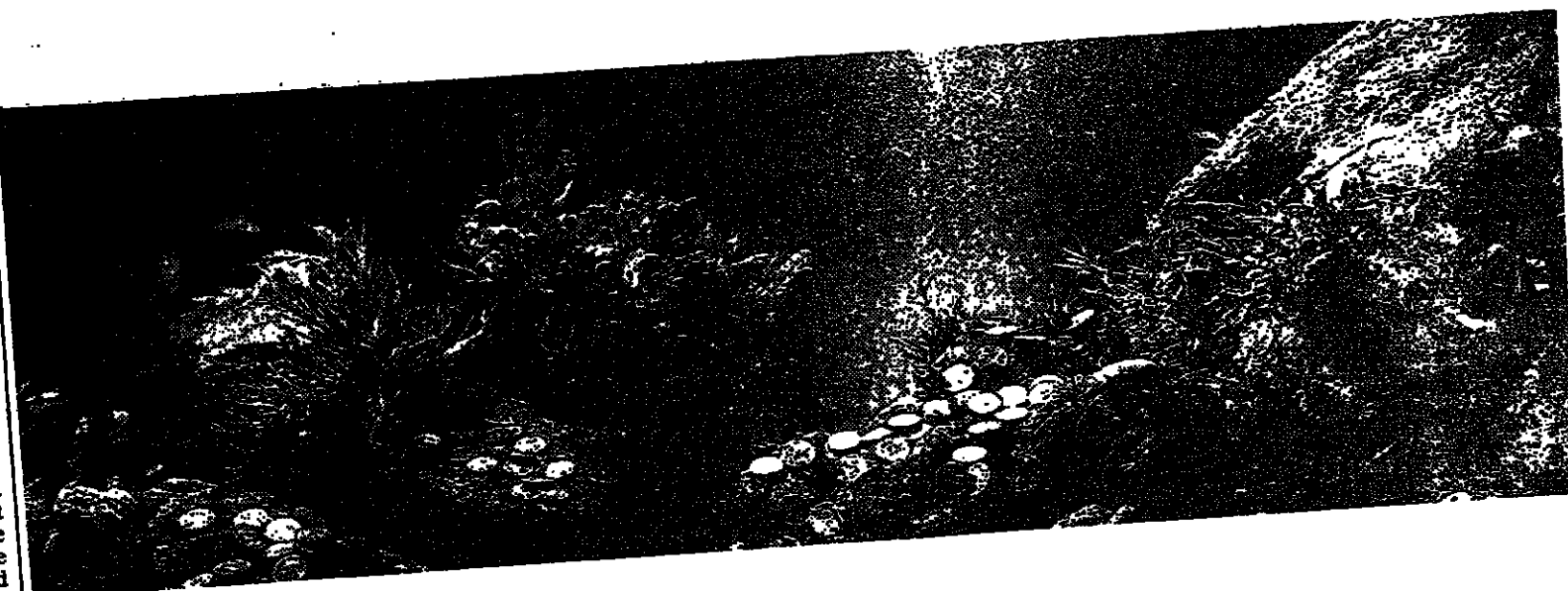
In February he bought a 20 per cent stake in the

Prince of Wales and Prince Edward theatres, and recently increased his share to 50 per cent. The owning company, a subsidiary of Lord Delfont's First Leisure group, has just announced the acquisition of the Strand Theatre and the renaming of the company to Delfont Mackintosh Theatres.

Mr Mackintosh may continue to give gifts to the performing arts. He already has the honour of having given the largest donation from an individual when he gave almost £1 million to the National Theatre for classical musicals, and he provided £1.75 to endow Oxford University's first professorship in drama and musical theatre.

Should he need the advice of an old hand, William Brown, a broker at Lloyds and the "uncrowned king of the market for disaster insurance", may be willing. Mr Brown has again emerged at the top of the list, having earned some £9 million, but will claim as always that the money is not in his wage packet and went on other projects. Perhaps his first piece of advice will be simple — that you do not discuss how much you earn or how you spend it.

More and more Merseyside companies are announcing record profits — it must be something to do with the water.



These days there's a real aura of success about Merseyside. Big name local organisations like Littlewoods, Vauxhall, Mersey Docks & Harbour Company and Barclaycard are all reporting record profits or investing heavily in the area, and hundreds of new businesses are opening their doors each month.

It's a time of optimism and opportunity — the right time for your business to make a move towards Merseyside.

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Divorced men go to an earlier grave

By ADAM FRESCO

DIVORCED men are more likely than their married counterparts to die early and they drink and smoke more heavily, according to a report on the links between relationship breakdown and physical and mental health.

The study, published tomorrow by One Plus One, which carries out research into marriages and partnerships, has found that both men and women in a good marriage suffer less stress than divorced people.

According to another study, the divorce rate in Britain — which is the highest in Europe — has damaging effects on the economy, costing billions of pounds a year.

George Brown, a divorce lawyer, writing in a booklet *The Decay of Marriage*, published today, says: "Income support in 1988/89 was £3.2 billion and I think it is fair to say that by 1992 it will be £5 billion. All the costs are rising significantly and, coupled with invisible costs like crime, policing and absenteeism, they will rise to the £10 billion mark next year." He claims that the costs are so great that

if Western civilisation is to survive "it is necessary to revive marriage as the foundation".

The One Plus One study shows that divorced men aged 35 to 45 face twice the risk of a premature death compared with their married counterparts.

Nearly 55 per cent of divorced men in the same age bracket will smoke compared with 35 per cent of married men. For women in the same age group the figures are similar — 54 per cent compared with 30 per cent. A divorced man will drink almost double the amount of his married counterpart. Divorced men are twice as likely

to die from heart disease and are 2.4 times more likely to die from a stroke.

The organisation wants more government funding for agencies to help people overcome relationship problems before they become too big to solve and lead to divorce.

The report says: "There is both conclusive evidence to show that marriage is a 'healthy environment' associated with lower mortality and morbidity and strong evidence that the process of divorce leaves men, women and children vulnerable to ill health."

Penny Mansfield, deputy director of One Plus One, said that a good marriage acted as a buffer against the stresses of life. "We want more bodies around to support those people that are going through a bad time in their marriage."

The Decay of Marriage (Family Education Trust, Wickham, Milton Keynes, MK19 6BU; £2)

Marital Breakdown and the Health of the Nation (One Plus One, Central Middlesex Hospital, Acton Lane, London NW10 7NS; £7.50)

The Decay of Marriage (Family Education Trust, Wickham, Milton Keynes, MK19 6BU; £2)

Not forgotten: a Jewish ex-serviceman at the Cenotaph in London yesterday for a parade to recall fallen comrades and the millions murdered in the Holocaust

Watchdog criticises secrecy in NHS

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

HEALTH authorities are becoming more secretive and less accountable to the public, patients' watchdogs claim today. A survey by the Association of Community Health Councils shows that fewer than a third of the authorities hold regular monthly meetings in public.

Nearly three-quarters of the 212 community health councils in England and Wales say their health authorities discuss important matters in private. Councils have lost their automatic right to attend health authority meetings as non-voting observers with speaking rights.

Nearly one-third of health councils say they have not been consulted on general contract plans that health authorities are drawing up with hospitals, and one in five councils reported problems with consultation procedures. The report recommends that councils should have the right to full involvement in the planning of services.

Chatline addict calls for ban

A WOMAN who was addicted to chatlines and ran up telephone bills of £29,000 yesterday called for chatlines to be banned or limited to ten-minute calls.

At King's Lynn crown court on Friday Sarah Baxter, aged 28, of married quarters, RAF Marham, Norfolk, was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for two years, for evading payment of £4,729 to BT and obtaining a telephone line by deception.

She said yesterday she became addicted to chatlines after becoming depressed. She rented a phone in 1989 under her previous name of Pearson, but after receiving a £4,729 bill said Mrs Pearson had moved and that her name was Marcovitch. She used other false names to avoid payment.

Churchill is uncensored

Three albums containing unpublished photographs of Winston Churchill as prime minister in the second world war are expected to make up to £25,000 when they are auctioned at Sotheby's in London on December 12.

Some of the 470 official pictures were censored because they showed armaments or installations too clearly or portrayed him looking tired. The albums, presented to him by the war cabinet, cover mainly his home and overseas tours between 1940 and 1945.

Enquiry opens on cell death

An enquiry was launched yesterday after William John Robertson, aged 40, who had been detained under the provisions of the Mental Health Act, was found hanged in a cell at Bournemouth police station. He had earlier been examined by a police surgeon.

The police will investigate whether Mr Robertson, a single and unemployed man, of Bournemouth, but originally from Aberdeen, had been properly supervised. The enquiry will be overseen by the Police Complaints Authority.

Kidnap charges

Mark Evans and Sheila Stroud from Staunton, near Gloucester, are to appear before Cheltenham magistrates today, charged with kidnap and attempted murder after Ivor Stokle and his friend Pauline Leyshon, both of Gloucester, were badly injured when their burning car plunged from a 250ft cliff. The incident was at Barrow Wake viewpoint, Birdlip, near Gloucester, on Friday.

Arsenic fears

Thousands of gallons of water feared to contain arsenic and aluminium began to overflow yesterday from the disused Wheal Jane tin mine in Cornwall. The owners are pumping the overflowing water into a holding reservoir, where some metals will be removed by chemical process. National Rivers Authority scientists are testing samples from the Carnon river, into which the mine water ultimately flows.

Train drivers to use simulators

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Rail is introducing a high-tech simulator designed to provide drivers with the kind of training given to airline pilots.

The £1 million simulator, the most advanced of its kind in Europe, will be used to prepare about 600 Network SouthEast train drivers for the arrival of the new generation of Networker trains which will come into operation on Kent Link lines between 1992 and 1993. Train drivers used to 40-year-old rolling stock will be able to retrain on the simulator, giving them experience, driving BR's most advanced commuter trains in all weather conditions, without having to leave the sidings at Waterloo station.

Sitting in a mock-up of the Networker cab, drivers will see a film of the route through the windscreen. The digitalised video picture can be altered by the instructor to present drivers with real-life situations, including signal changes, power failures, emergency stops, a passenger trapped in the doors, snow, fog, and even a cow on the line.

The simulator is based on a prototype developed by SNCF, the French national railway, after a series of rail disasters between 1985 and

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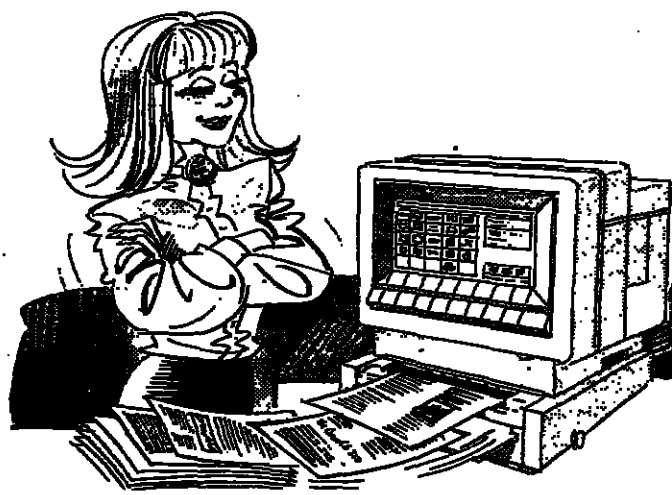
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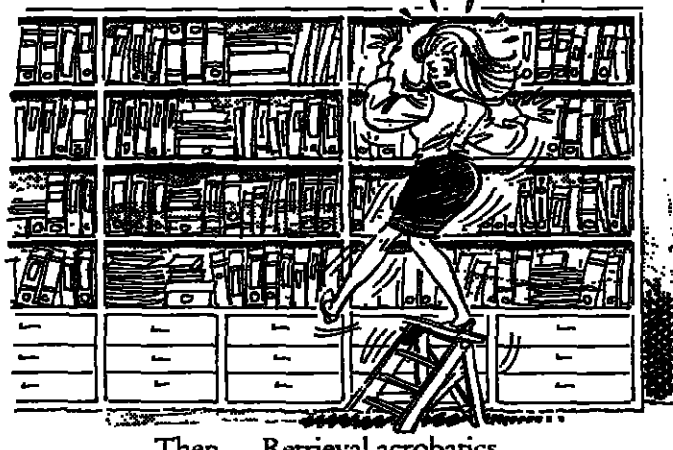
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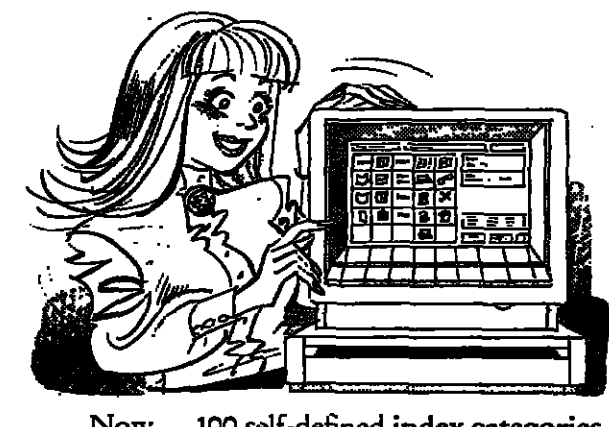
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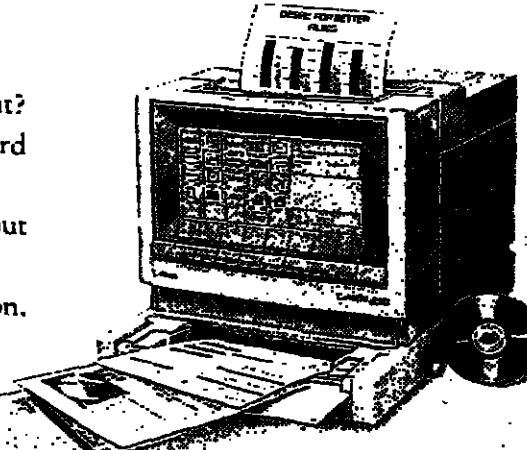
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Cornish road plan rejected

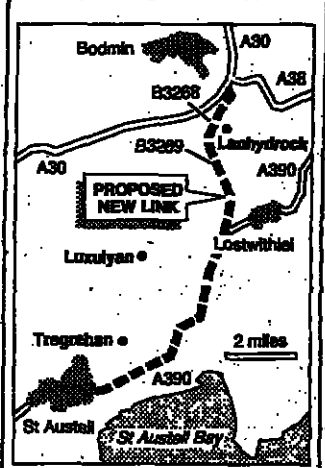
By MARCUS BINNEY

JUBILANT campaigners in Cornwall are celebrating the county council's rejection of a £28 million road proposal which, they said, would damage beautiful landscape and intrude on two of the county's finest gardens.

The road was intended to form a link between St Austell and the A30/38 near Bodmin. Objectors said, however, that other, less damaging alternatives through exhausted china clay workings had not been properly examined.

Giles Clotworthy, of the National Trust, said: "The proposed road alignment would have profoundly disturbed the peace and tranquility of Lanhydrock, one of the trust's most popular properties in the county."

Tregrehan gardens, north-east of St Austell, also affected by the proposals, were established in the 18th century by the ancestors of Tom Hudson, the present owner, and opened to the public for the first time a few years ago.



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The simulator is based on a prototype developed by SNCF, the French national railway, after a series of rail disasters between 1985 and

1988, which demonstrated that traditional training failed to equip drivers with the ability to cope with the unexpected.

Chris Green, Network SouthEast's managing director, said: "A few minutes in the cab is sufficient to create the realism of driving. The real value in this equipment comes not from learning how to drive the train, but from how to respond to special situations."

SNCF has some 36 simulators in service providing refresher courses for its 16,000 train drivers. Network SouthEast plans to extend its experiment, and ultimately the system could be used throughout the BR network if government funding were made available.

The arrival of the Networker trains, part of a £800 million scheme to modernise Kent Link routes, will revolutionise commuting between London and Kent. The first 842 Class 465 Networker coaches are expected to come into service in March 1992. About 400 are under construction by GEC-Alsthon and BREL. Network SouthEast has been given approval for an additional 188 coaches, although it does not have the funds to order them.

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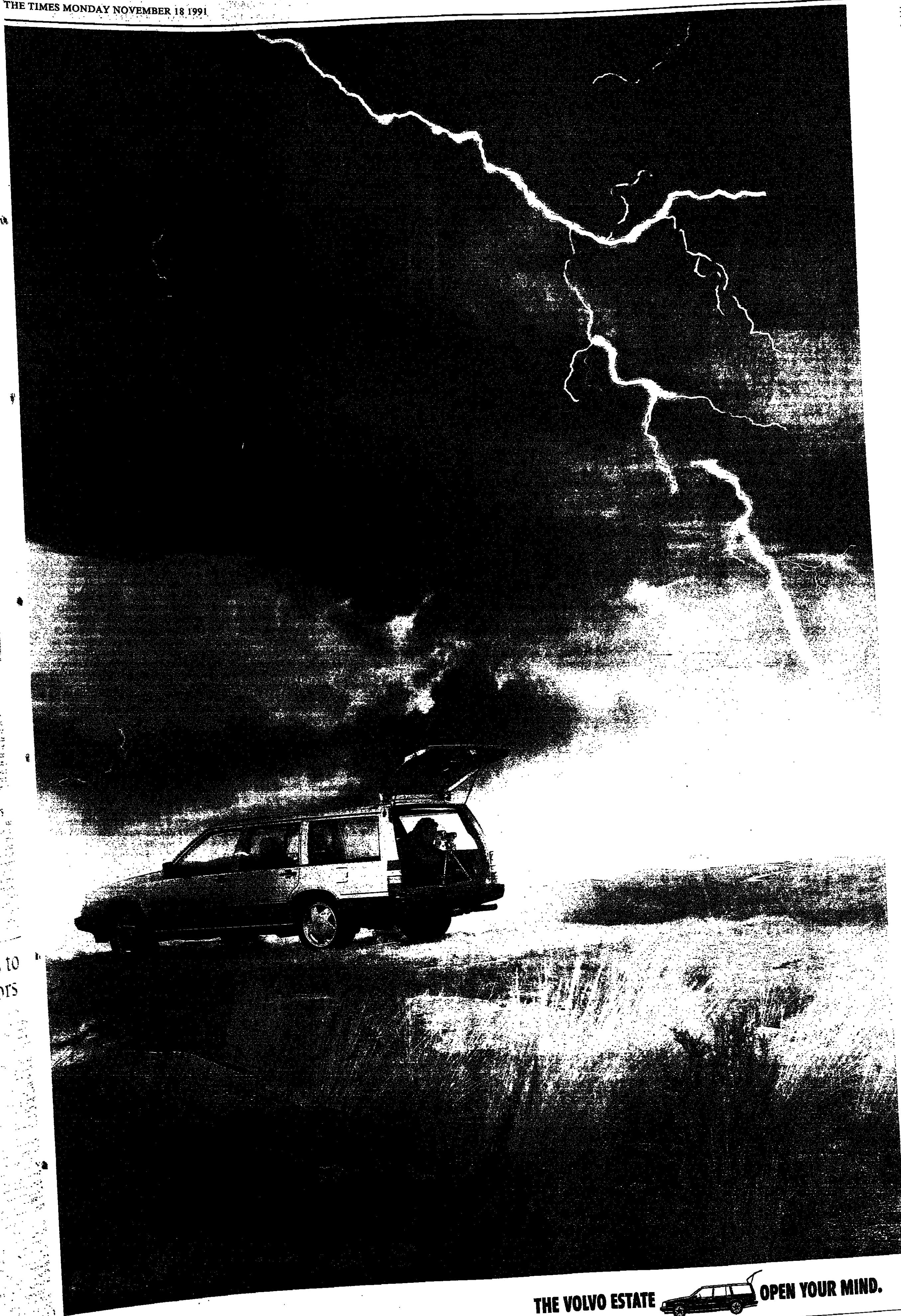
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THE TIMES MONDAY NOVEMBER 18 1991

Surcharges spawn a new breed of poll tax rebel

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

COUNCILS throughout Britain are facing a new poll tax rebellion as people refuse to pay surcharges added to community charge bills to compensate for non-payment.

According to council treasurers, the new breed of rebels are mostly middle-class Conservative supporters who see no reason why they should be penalised because others have refused to pay. For the first time this year, local tax bills show the true cost to those who are paying of shortfalls caused by those who fail to pay or refuse to do so on principle.

Councils are obliged to set out on the poll tax bill, under the heading "other adjustments", the amount a person has to pay to make good losses caused by non-payment. The arrival of bills showing "other adjustments", sometimes of more than £150 a head, prompted a flood of letters and telephone calls to town halls.

Keith Jennings, a retired petro-chemical engineer, lives in the part of Dulwich that falls within the boundaries of Labour-controlled Lambeth in southwest London, where the "other adjustments" figure is £158. Mr Jennings, who described himself as a life-long Conservative voter and a natural Tory, said: "This addition is nearly 40 per cent of the total bill. I do not see why the devil should have to pay it."

He pays his poll tax in ten monthly instalments and is considering stopping, the standing order once he has paid the amount on his bill minus the £158 surcharge. Martin Pilgrim, finance officer of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, says treasurers of his city councils are worried that many people will follow Mr Jennings's example.

He said: "If significant numbers refuse to pay we will have to take them to court, which will be time-consuming and expensive."

Cooking up cure for goose invasion

By JOHN YOUNG

QUESTION: how do you prevent the eggs of a Canada goose from hatching? Answer: remove them from the nest and hard-boil them. That sounds like a pretty effective solution, but there is more to that. Having boiled the eggs, you put them back in the nest where the silly goose will continue to sit on them without noticing anything wrong.

Canada geese, which have been described as "the yobs of the bird world", also appear to be somewhat dim-witted. Research by the Game Conservancy indicates that they are unable either to tell when their eggs have been given the saucepan treatment or to tell them apart from wooden substitutes.

The exercise has been carried out at the Agricultural Research Council's wildlife centre at Great Linford, Buckinghamshire, to try to cut the numbers of a species that has become a menace to public health and



Geese on the loose: Viv Phillips, a project officer at Great Linford, with the proliferating subjects of her research

enjoyment. Apart from damaging crops and other vegetation, the breed has a vigorous digestive system which, during intensive feeding, produces a large droppings every three or four minutes.

Despite their name, the birds are well established year-round residents, first imported in the 17th century. The population is growing at about 8 per cent a year and is

expected to be well over 100,000 by the year 2000.

Among their favourite habitats are parks and playing fields, notably in the Midlands and the Thames valley. They have invaded the Wildlife and Wetland Trust reserve at Slimbridge, in Gloucestershire, where they chase away smaller birds; disrupted the Henley Royal Regatta by getting in the way of the boats; es-

dangered aircraft by obstructing flight paths; and ruined many a lovingly tended lawn and golf green.

Since they are a protected species, their eggs can be removed from the nests only under licence from the agriculture ministry if it can be shown that the geese are damaging crops or creating a public nuisance.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says it

has no objection to boiling the eggs or substituting wooden dummies. "We recognise that the geese can be a nuisance and, if a humane way can be found of controlling their numbers, we are happy to support it," an official said.

But why return the eggs to the nest at all? Because, if the birds return to empty nests, they will simply produce another clutch.

Blood test detects early signs of cancer

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW blood test that can diagnose early signs of cancer has been developed by British researchers.

The technique can identify a single cancer cell in a blood sample in cases of malignant melanoma, a potentially fatal form of skin cancer. The advance is reported in *The Lancet* by specialists at St James's University Hospital, Leeds. "If its usefulness is confirmed, the test may have important implications in malignant melanoma, and perhaps in many other cancers," Peter Selby, professor of cancer studies at the hospital, and colleagues say.

The diagnosis of a primary cancer may be possible from blood samples, avoiding more invasive diagnostic methods. After diagnosis, the test could be useful in assessing a patient's prognosis.

The test uses the polymerase chain reaction technique of amplifying DNA from a blood sample to detect the gene involved in melanoma cancer cell production.

In this pretty bungalow in Ruislip, Helen and Peter entertained guests, collected antique books, trimmed the rosebushes and transmitted nuclear secrets to the KGB.



'STRANGE NEIGHBOURS': In 1961, Peter and Helen Kroger were arrested for their part in the 'Portland Spy Ring.' It left their neighbours and the whole country stunned and dismayed. 30 years on, the Krogers, now in Moscow, give their first ever television interview to 'Cutting Edge.' We reveal the Krogers' role in the notorious 'Atom Spy Ring,' and examine the devastating effect this spy-team had, not only on their neighbours from Ruislip, but also on Britain and the rest of the world. In this season of documentaries, we look at the many different ways people choose to lead their lives. It's fascinating viewing, made compulsive by the fact that these lives so often touch upon our own.

Every Monday at 9pm, we draw back the curtain.

CUTTING EDGE.

KEEP AN EYE ON



9PM. MONDAYS.

Fast-food couriers branded a hazard

By ADAM FRESCO

EATING a home-delivered pizza might not seem to involve one of life's more dangerous pursuits but Salford city council in Greater Manchester seems to think it does.

The council fears that because the price of a pizza delivered late to a customer is reduced, the pizza couriers might whizz along the streets in their vans or on their mopeds, becoming a road safety hazard. It is asking the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to press the Home Office to end the practice of giving money off food not delivered in time.

The fast food wars are bringing more and more enticements to a public hungry for offers. A Pizza Hut manager in London said, however, that his staff were not encouraged to drive fast. He said: "If the pizza is delivered after 30 minutes we give £1 off, if the food is not out of the store in 20 minutes we automatically give the reduction."

"The courier does not pay for the food being late, the store does. Our policy is, be slow on the road and fast on our feet. We only deliver within a radius of a five-minute drive anyway, so if the food left the store after, say, 19 minutes the courier would have 11 minutes for a five-minute drive."

In America, where every type of fast food is available for those glued to the television, Domino's pizza chain was investigated because of a high casualty rate among its drivers. The idea of giving money off for late deliveries then made its way to Britain, and Salford council became anxious about pizza outlets operating the "money back" scheme.

The Home Office said yesterday: "Salford city council can ask for us to look into ending this practice but this is not a matter for us at all. You are talking about trade practices, which we do not cover."

Greater Manchester police said: "We would not know if pizza couriers are involved in a lot of accidents unless we were carrying out a specific survey on them."

Bond winners

Winners in the weekly National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw are: £100,000, number 7LB 973931 (winner lives in Essex, value of holding £25); £50,000 2585 229896 (North Yorkshire, £5,000); £25,000 6DP 678399 (West Yorkshire, £5,626).

Father of jailed girl flies out

The father of Karyn Smith, above, one of two British girls jailed for drug trafficking in Thailand, has flown to Bangkok to supervise her application for a pardon.

Thai legal representatives of Miss Smith, aged 19, who was caught with more than 26 kilos of heroin with Patricia Cahill, aged 17, in July, have threatened to drop the case unless "certain assurances" are given by the father, Eric Smith. These are thought to include withdrawing allegations of police corruption.

Stephen Jakobi, the family's London lawyer, has claimed that an official of the Thai embassy in London had guaranteed a pardon. However, officials in Bangkok say they know of no assurances.

Young inventor

Adam Kyle, aged 19, of Wolverhampton, won the £10,000 top prize in the Year Young Inventor of the Year competition, organised by Rotary International, with a device for checking motorcycle ignition.

Climber dies

A man who fell 20ft to his death during a climbing trip to the Yorkshire Dales on Saturday was named as David Stott, aged 51, of Dewsbury, West Yorkshire.

Mother killed

Dee Smithies, aged 37, was killed as she helped to save her three children from a house fire in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire.

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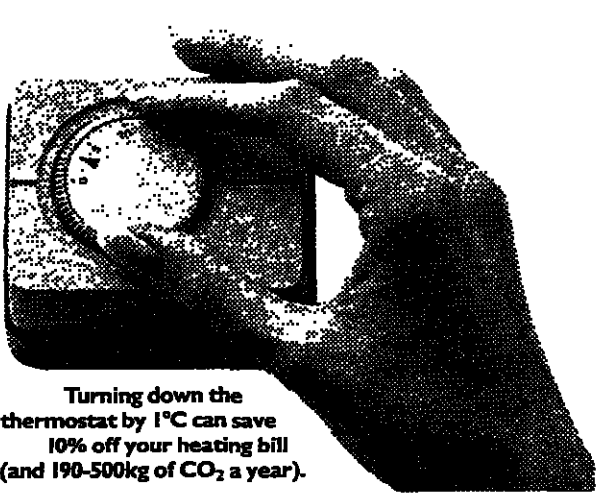
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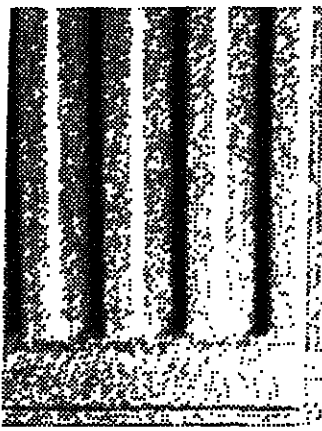
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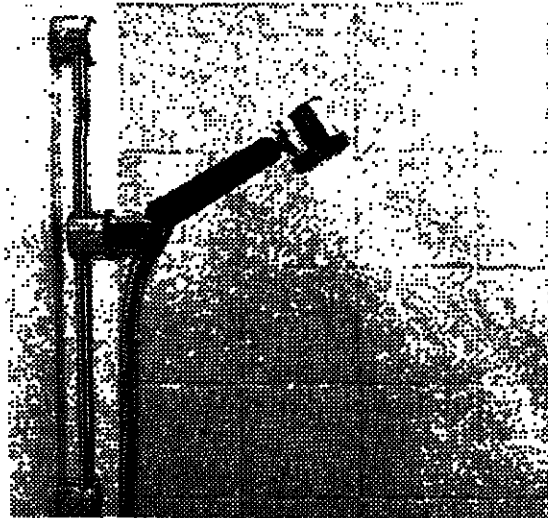
What can any one person do about Global Warming?



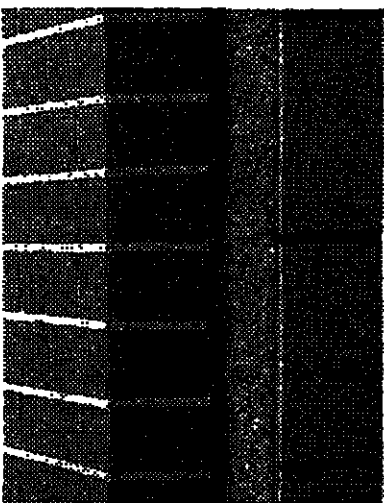
Turning down the thermostat by 1°C can save 10% off your heating bill (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



By fitting thermostatic radiator valves you can control the temperature in individual rooms.



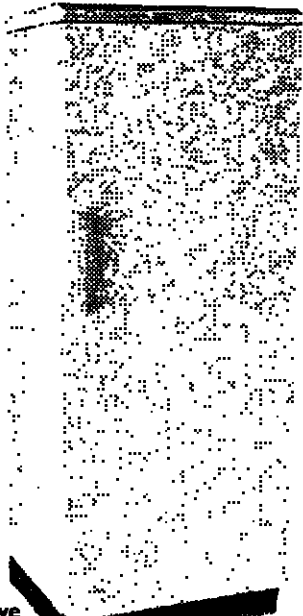
Taking a shower instead of a bath uses only 1/3 of the hot water (and can save 60-125kg of CO₂ a year).



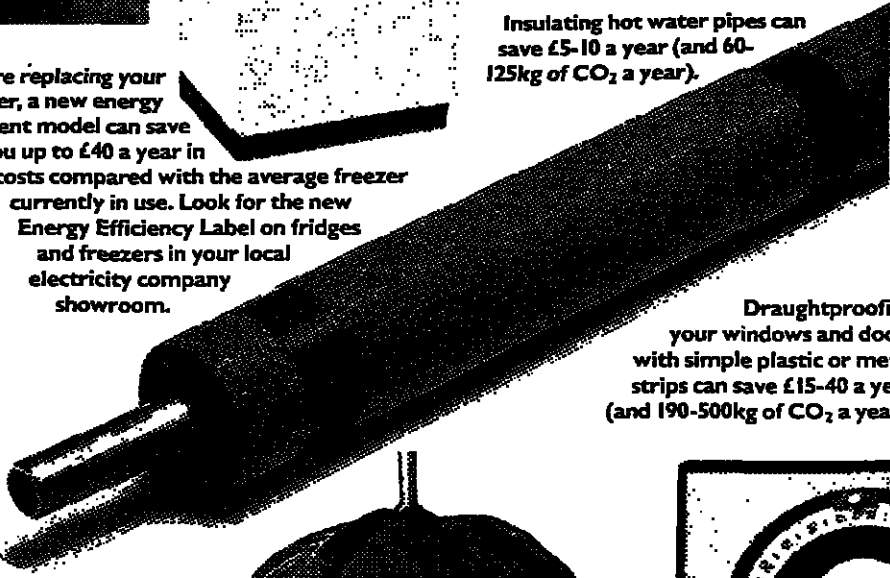
Insulating cavity walls can save £60-80 a year (and 750-1000kg of CO₂ a year). The cost to you will be about £300 to £450.



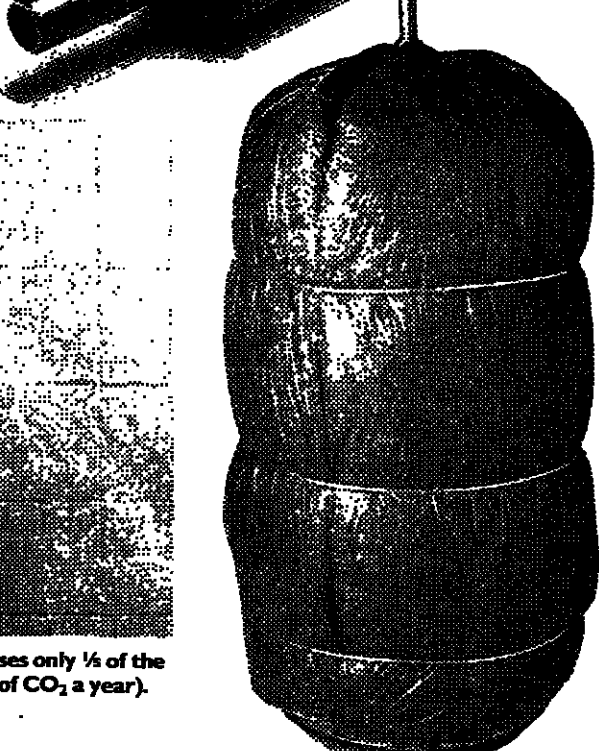
A dripping hot water tap can waste a bathful of water a day - ensuring taps are turned off properly, and fixing dripping taps, can save up to £5 a year.



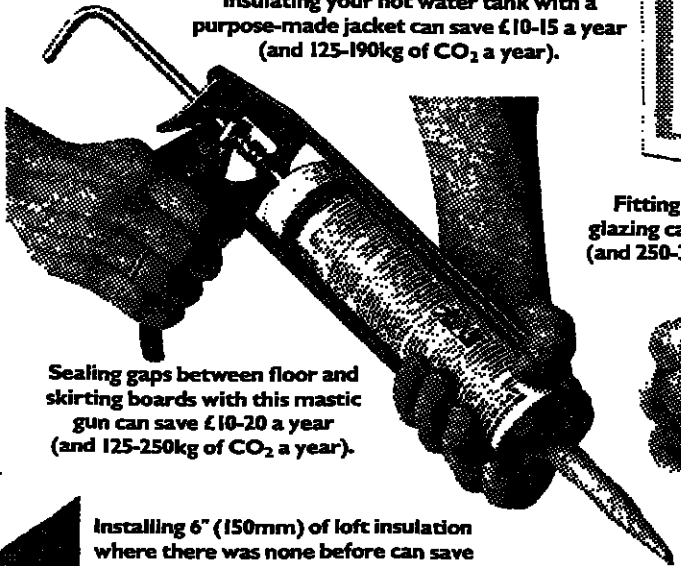
If you are replacing your old freezer, a new energy efficient model can save you up to £40 a year in running costs compared with the average freezer currently in use. Look for the new Energy Efficiency Label on fridges and freezers in your local electricity company showroom.



Insulating hot water pipes can save £5-10 a year (and 60-125kg of CO₂ a year).

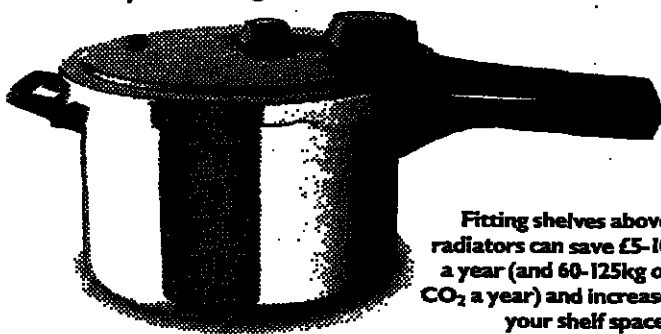


Insulating your hot water tank with a purpose-made jacket can save £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).

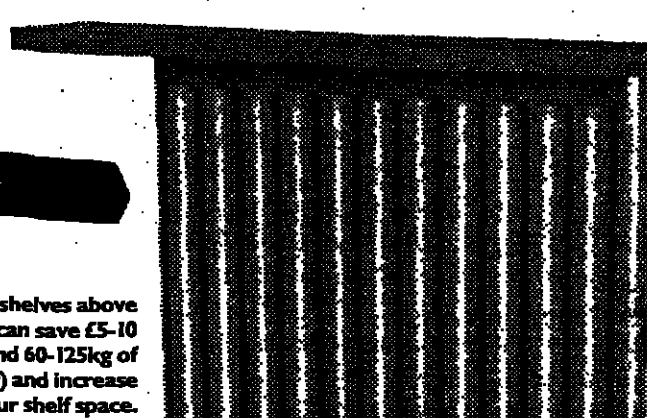


Sealing gaps between floor and skirting boards with this mastic gun can save £10-20 a year (and 125-250kg of CO₂ a year).

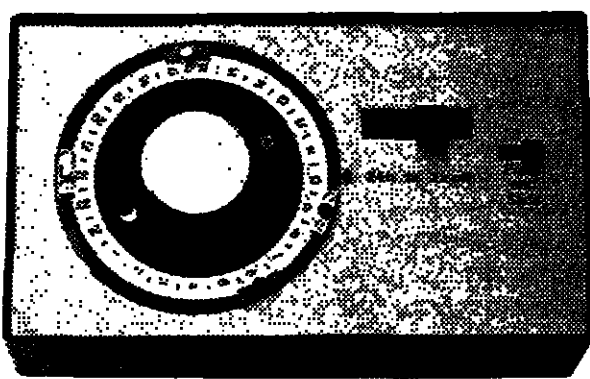
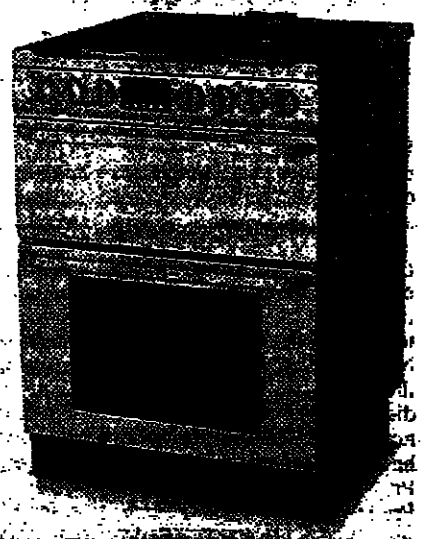
Use a pressure cooker instead of 3 or 4 saucepans so you only use one ring or burner.



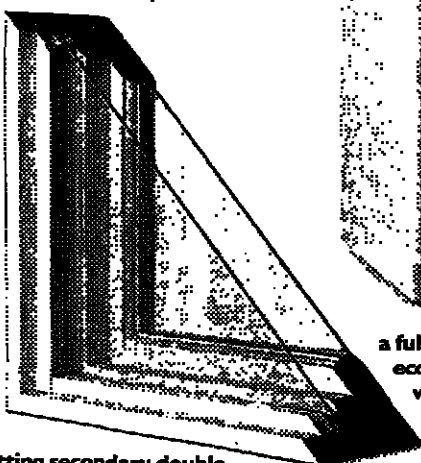
Fitting shelves above radiators can save £5-10 a year (and 60-125kg of CO₂ a year) and increase your shelf space.



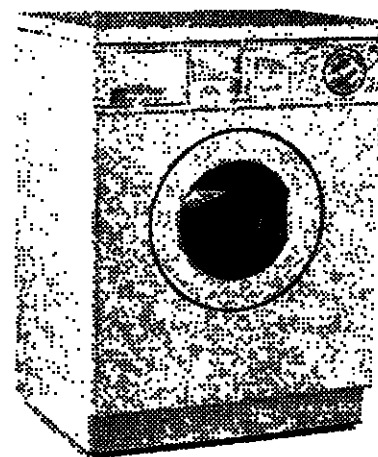
A new energy efficient electric cooker can save you up to £35 a year in running costs compared with the average electric cooker currently in use.



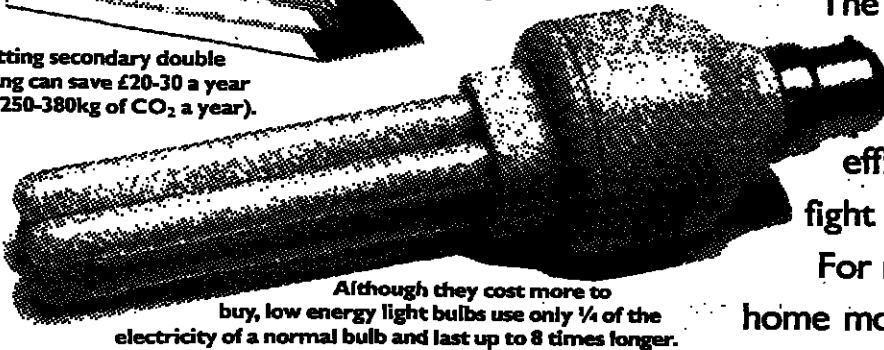
Adding a timer or programmer to your central heating system can save £20-25 a year by only providing heat when you need it.



Fitting secondary double glazing can save £20-30 a year (and 250-380kg of CO₂ a year).



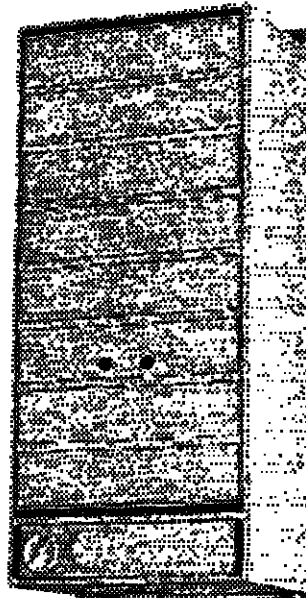
Wait until you have a full load if possible or use the economy programme if your washing machine has one.



Although they cost more to buy, low energy light bulbs use only 1/4 of the electricity of a normal bulb and last up to 8 times longer.



Closing your curtains when it's getting dark can save you £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Replacing an old gas central heating boiler with a new condensing boiler costs extra to start with, but can save £100-150 a year (and 1250-1900kg of CO₂ a year). This is one of the biggest single savings you can make.

Global Warming is caused by the warming effect of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat. It's popularly known as the 'Greenhouse Effect'.

Carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, is created whenever we use energy generated from fossil fuels, whether in our homes, offices, factories or for transport.

More than a quarter of Britain's CO₂, however, is produced by the energy we use in our homes and it is in our homes that each of us can make our greatest contribution to becoming more energy efficient.

By making relatively straightforward changes in the way we use energy at home, it's estimated that we could cut our fuel bills - and thus also the amount of carbon dioxide generated - by 20% or more.

The ideas shown here are only a sample of the many things each of us can do every day to use energy more efficiently - and thus play our part in the fight against Global Warming.

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ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Fear and laughter as Cambodians open door to their former oppressors

Wary Phnom Penh greets Khmer chief

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PHNOM PENH

THE Khmer Rouge returned to the Cambodian capital yesterday for the first time since Vietnamese troops ended their murderous rule in 1979. Son Sen, who played a brutal internal security role during the Khmer Rouge government, flew in from Bangkok to take part in a meeting of the Supreme National Council, set up as part of the country's moves towards peace.

Dressed in Chinese-style grey suits with shirts and ties, instead of the black uniforms of old or the khaki that the Khmer Rouge normally wear now, Son Sen and his 10 bodyguards and aides could have been businessmen. "I am very happy to be back," said Son Sen, who is to be defence minister in the council and is one of only two Khmer Rouge men appointed to the body. "I will co-operate with the SNC."

As head of security in Khmer Rouge-ruled Cambodia, Son Sen may have been



personally responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of people. He was in overall charge of the notorious Tuol Sleng interrogation centre in Phnom Penh, now a "genocide museum", where 20,000 died.

The national council, under the chairmanship of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who returned home last Thursday from 13 years of exile, will represent Cambodian sovereignty as American forces oversee the dismantling of much of the four previously

waiting factions' armies, and until United Nations-supervised elections in 1993. Incredibly to outsiders, the Khmer Rouge hope to do reasonably well in these elections. Some diplomats believe they could win between 10 and 12 per cent of the vote, mainly from poor rural people in or near areas they control. This would give them some seats in a future national assembly, and thus a voice in the capital they emptied in a mass evacuation in 1975.

The apparent revival of Khmer Rouge fortunes, boosted by wealth gained from control of the gem-mining Pailin area and from past Chinese aid, stems largely from the corruption and flaunting of wealth by the ruling elite here, and the Phnom Penh regime's neglect of rural areas. "The conditions that spawned the Khmer Rouge in the first place are here again," said a senior foreign relief official in Phnom Penh. "It seems the elite in Cambodia never learn."

The Khmer Rouge group were met by a deputy foreign minister and other officials. Guarded by the soldiers they had been fighting until recently, they drove to a high-walled state guest house. Leaders of the Vietnam-installed government, most of whom are former Khmer Rouge and who are hated as renegades by their former comrades, have said they feared demonstrations. Some protesters appeared briefly, but Maek Ben, a middle-level Khmer Rouge official, said: "I am not concerned about my safety because this is national reconciliation."

The strongest desire of local people seemed to be to take a good look at their former persecutors. "I want to see their faces," said a young woman whose parents both died during Khmer Rouge rule.

"I just wanted to see what the killers look like," said Keo Vuthy, aged 36, an office clerk. "I watched a Khmer Rouge security guard called Vanna change Thai currency into Cambodian notes and recalled what I had seen in Phnom Penh in early 1979, shortly after the Khmer Rouge had been driven out — the central bank blown up, and currency notes blowing in the street. The Khmer Rouge had declared that money was no longer to be used."

Like most Khmer Rouge, Vanna was polite and quiet spoken. But one had no doubt that, if ordered, he would have killed in a second. In the past, they killed for what George Orwell in 1984 called "thought crimes" — wrong political thinking.

At Tuol Sleng, there is a letter written by a man using a nomme de guerre, believed to be Son Sen, to his chief torture-master, "Brother Deuch." In it, Son Sen asks that Deuch tape-record that Deuch confesses so that people could be disposed of more quickly. Among the 87 foreigners who died here was a British yachtsman who had had to confess that his father, a schoolmaster, had spied for both the KGB and CIA.



Return of the warlord: Son Sen, thought to have ordered thousands of deaths in the "killing fields" of Cambodia, arriving at Phnom Penh airport yesterday flanked by aides

Sihanouk stars in comedy of errors

By JAMES PRINGLE

IT IS somehow a cross between Shakespearean drama, opera bouffe and *The King and I*.

The setting is sumptuous — the newly renovated royal palace in Phnom Penh — and the cast of characters bizarre, to say the least. There is Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who at the age of 69 has come back to die in Cambodia, though he hopes to have some fun before he goes. Then there is his son, Prince Ranariddh, whom Prince Sihanouk would like to see on the throne as would, apparently, many Cambodians.

Father and son have been having noisy arguments in the past few days — even shouting matches, according to palace insiders — in the old Khmer palace. The father has had to reach a compromise with the rulers of Cambodia in order to return on Saturday, he walked hand in hand with Chea Sim, the Cambodian strongman, down to a pavilion by the river here.

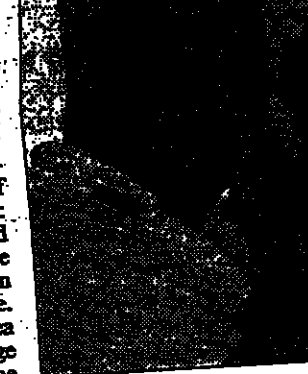
A few months ago, Chea Sim, a former Khmer Rouge who jumped ship after the Vietnamese invaded Cambodia in late 1978, was his bitter foe. Hun Sen, the prime minister of the Phnom Penh regime, is now Prince Sihanouk's "second son". He is 40 years old.

Hun Sen, also a former Khmer Rouge, has written four songs which he says were inspired by Prince Sihanouk. The prince told a press conference inside the royal palace on Saturday night that Prince Ranariddh, who at 48 is a carbon copy of his father — they both speak in high-pitched voices and wave their arms when excited — would form a coalition with Chea Sim's ruling People's Party after United Nations-supervised elections in 1993.

This seemed to be news to Prince Ranariddh, a lecturer

in public law at Aix-en-Provence in France but also commander of the guerrilla army. He looked most put out that he had to link up with an old foe.

When Prince Sihanouk said his two sons — the other being Hun Sen — would accompany him to visit Hanoi, headquarters of the old enemy, Vietnam, in December, Prince Ranariddh, sitting behind his father, mouthed: "No." Other characters include Prince



Sihanouk: managing to bring back some smiles

Sihanouk's North Korean security men and palace flunkies, four Chinese chefs, including a Chinese MP, two pastry chefs, and one who prepares French food and a Chilean aide-de-camp.

For the first time in years the prince had people laughing at a political rally, a rent-a-crowd in front of the palace at the weekend. He said that when he complained to the Khmer Rouge, whose prisoner he was in 1975, that he had not enough to eat they had said: "But Prince, you look more handsome than I."

There isn't much to laugh about in Cambodia, but Prince Sihanouk has managed to put a smile on some faces.



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UN backs arms deal register

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE United Nations has given overwhelming backing to the British proposal to create an international register of conventional arms sales, designed to prevent any country building an offensive military capability like Iraq's.

A key UN committee, comprising all 166 UN members, voted 106-1 on Friday, with only Cuba against, to establish the arms register next year. But China, one of the world's largest arms exporters, broke ranks with the other great powers with whom it has already agreed to limit arms sales, and abstained.

North Korea, Iraq, Oman, Myanmar (Burma), Pakistan, Singapore and Sudan also abstained — a group including what one Western diplomat described as "some of the world's nastier people". "The Chinese will be rather embarrassed to have got the wrong side of the equation," the diplomat said.

Fifty-one countries did not take part in the vote. The General Assembly is due to give its final approval next month, but that is now regarded as a formality.

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Trip by UN negotiator raises hopes for Waite

From MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE return to the Middle East at the weekend of Giandomenico Picco, a senior United Nations negotiator, has added weight to an Iranian report that Terry Waite, Britain's last hostage in Lebanon, may soon be freed after nearly five years in captivity.

The *Tehran Times* said yesterday that one of the four Americans still held would also be freed, but that the kidnappers would probably give priority to Mr Waite, the Church of England envoy. Signor Picco had made similar trips to the Middle East before the release of the British pilot, Jack Mann, on September 24, and Jesse Turner, the American hostage freed on October 21.

Signor Picco paved the way for their release after direct talks with their pro-Iranian kidnappers as well as with Syrian, Iranian and Israeli officials. The kidnappers had also asked him to be present at the handover of their captives.

The newspaper did not say why the kidnappers were prepared to free Mr Waite. He was expected to be one of the

John McCarthy in August and Mr Mann in September.

Most of all, the appearance of the report suggests that the complex hostage release process has not been derailed by the escalating violence in southern Lebanon between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian organisation that fronts the kidnap groups. But by freeing Mr Waite, aged 52, his captors, Islamic Jihad, would be giving up any leverage that they feel they might have on the British government. His publicity-seeking kidnappers would also lose a wider audience by narrowing interest in the plight of the remaining hostages almost exclusively to America, four of whose citizens remain captives. The others are Mr Waite and two Germans.

Although the UN has confirmed that Signor Picco is in the Middle East, it is keeping details of his trip secret. The Iranian report said that he visited Damascus at the weekend. A Western diplomat in Beirut said that there were reports that Signor Picco had arrived last week in Lebanon where he had met Muhammad Khonsari, a senior Iranian foreign ministry official. Mr Khonsari said publicly that he hoped the seven remaining Westerners would be freed very soon.

Signor Picco, who has won the trust of the various parties, will need to muster all his skills to persuade the kidnappers it is in their interests to continue with the release process and to keep the hostage issue separate from their conflict with Israel in southern Lebanon. Some diplomats commented that his task was helped last week when Washington blamed Libya squarely for the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan-Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, exonerating both Syria and Iran.

● **Giant wish:** diplomats, pop stars and relatives of Mr Waite in London released white doves and signed a giant Christmas card to the Western captives in Lebanon yesterday, encouraged by reports that two of them may soon be freed. The huge card, with the message "Don't Keep Them Forever", was addressed to the remaining Westerners held in Lebanon. The event was planned before the news of a possible breakthrough in the hostage issue. (Reuters)

"Let's hope it is true," a British diplomat in Beirut said of the newspaper report. "We have no indication that this is the case, but the *Tehran Times* has been accurate in the past." The newspaper correctly predicted the release of several hostages, including that of



Waite: captors may give priority to his release

last hostages to be freed along with Terry Anderson, the American journalist. The kidnappers were said to view both as trump cards to be played only when Israel agreed to free its most valuable Lebanese prisoner, Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah cleric.

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Song of peace: Hanan Ashrawi, centre, the Palestinian activist, joining hands with Israeli women campaigning for peace and who support her defiance of harassment by Israeli authorities

Israel retreats on Ashrawi threat

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL yesterday appeared to back away from its threat to prosecute Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian spokeswoman accused by Israeli police of illegally meeting the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Although the matter was raised at yesterday's weekly cabinet meeting, political sources said that no action was likely to be taken, in spite of police findings that Mrs Ashrawi had broken the law.

In a reversal of policy, possibly prompted by the international and domestic outcry at the weekend, Ehud Olmert, the Israeli health minister, said on Saturday that he did not believe that the Palestinian would ever be tried.

"Legal action proposed by the police against Mrs Ashrawi regarding her alleged contacts would not prove effective," said Mr Olmert, a key adviser to Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister. "It would also be wrong, unrealistic and untimely. She will not be prosecuted. In the end we will be better off not raising the issue."

The visible embarrassment in government circles was particularly acute after President Bush reportedly said in a meeting with George Salem, the Arab-American leader: "Please know that Hanan is in my mind and I am paying very close attention to what is happening over there." The issue is likely to come up again on Friday when Mr Bush will meet the Israeli leader in

Washington. The focus of their talks will be on where and when to hold bilateral negotiations between Israel and its neighbours and to finalise details of the opening round of the multinational talks.

Mr Bush's concern was echoed yesterday by left-wing Israeli women leaders, including Shulamit Aloni, a Citizens' Rights Movement member of the Knesset, who visited Mrs Ashrawi at her home in the West Bank city of Ramallah to offer her support. However, Gush Emunim, the Jewish settlers' movement, reacted with anger at any suggestion that Mrs Ashrawi's case be dropped. "We demand that the government not be deterred from justice by the whimpering of the viper Hanan Ashrawi," the group said. "There is need to apply the principle of the rule of law to the terrorist leaders as well."

● **Amman:** Jordan was thrown into political confusion yesterday by the resignation of Taher al-Masri, its moderate Palestinian prime minister, prompted mainly by fierce Muslim fundamentalist opposition to the Middle East peace process (Christopher Walker writes).

King Hussein is determined to stand up to the fundamentalists, who form the largest single block in parliament. He has called on Sheriff Zeid Bin Shaker, his former commander-in-chief, to form a new cabinet.

Gulf allies are accused of killing civilians needlessly

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

HUNDREDS of civilians needlessly lost their lives during the Gulf war because allied commanders failed to abide by the laws of armed conflict, according to a human rights report published yesterday.

An investigation by Middle East Watch, an American-based organisation, disputed claims by the United States and its allies that they had taken all feasible precautions to avoid civilian deaths. It said that in the selection of

bombing targets and the choice of means and methods of attack, the allies broke protocol I of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which the United States has declared to be legally binding.

The allies are accused of bombing military targets in civilian areas by day, instead of by night when civilian casualties could have been minimised. They did not make full use of precision-guided "smart" bombs in

urban areas, and in more than 90 per cent of cases dropped on urban areas bombs that hit their target only 25 per cent of the time.

The report, based on interviews with Iraqi residents of various nationalities, also blamed the allies for targeting food, agricultural and water-treatment facilities, crippling the electricity system, attacking civilian vehicles and firing on bedouin tents, leaving 46 civilians dead. Four government food warehouses in Diwaniya, a new dairy factory north of Basra, flour and grain storage warehouses as well as water-treatment facilities should not have been hit because they were making no known contribution to the Iraqi war effort, the report said. It also claimed that under the laws of war America should have issued a warning before attacking the Amiriyah air raid shelter, where up to 300 civilians died.

● **Needless Deaths in the Gulf War:** a 400-page report issued under the aegis of Human Rights Watch, said the Iraqis had also committed violations, including missile attacks on civilians in Saudi Arabia and Israel and taking illegal reprisals.

The Foreign Office gave the report a dusty response, saying: "The allies took very great care indeed to ensure that they attacked only genuine military targets. They went to great lengths to avoid civilian, cultural and religious targets."

Libya condemns Lockerbie claims

By MICHAEL BINYON

LIBYA yesterday accused Britain and America of trying to terrorise the Libyan people and divert attention from American economic problems by bringing charges against two Libyans for the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.

"The US and British threats are aimed at keeping the Libyan people busy with things other than their vanguard role in realising their national, Islamic and international goals," said a commentary carried by Jana, the Libyan news agency. Denunciations of the criminal charges against two Libyan intelligence agents gathered pace over the weekend. The official

media carried pro-Libyan comment from Iraq, Iran and Jordan and said those accusing Tripoli of responsibility did not believe the charges themselves. Britain and America have no extradition treaty with Libya.

The Arab League called yesterday for Western restraint over Libya. It issued a statement in Cairo saying it believed Libya had not been responsible for blowing up the aircraft over Scotland. Egypt has held high-level consultations in Libya since the United States handed a message to the Egyptians allegedly with proof of Libya's role in the bombing.

Doctors protest in Paris

Paris — The latest mass demonstration against Edith Cresson's socialist government saw tens of thousands of doctors and chemists, nurses and laboratory technicians take to the streets of Paris to protest against pay and conditions and the lack of investment in public health (Philip Jacobson writes).

According to the organisers, 500,000 marched peacefully yesterday from Montparnasse to attend a final rally in the Champ de Mars. The police estimated the crowd at no more than 60,000, but agreed that proceedings had been orderly and calm.

The present wave of strikes go-slows and demonstrations shows no sign of slackening off, while public opinion remains firmly behind most of the public sector workers.

Seat for Rao

Delhi — P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, has been elected to parliament five months after taking office. The governing Congress (I) party was leading in six other parliamentary constituencies during counting after 15 by-elections at the weekend. Several people were killed in post-related clashes.

Lebanon push

Rasheya — A 35-man Israeli armoured force pushed north of its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon to a position overlooking Hezbollah bases. Lebanese police said Israeli helicopters flew reconnaissance missions over the area, but it was not known whether the force had attacked or arrested any guerrillas. (AP)

Kurds flee city

Arbil, Iraq — Thousands of Kurds have fled this northern Iraqi city fearing that orders to evacuate villages to the southwest are the prelude to an attack by government troops. Kurdish leaders, anxious to prevent an exodus, have prepared a televised message asking Kurds not to leave home. (Reuters)

Franco recalled

Madrid — Thousands of Spanish and foreign admirers of General Franco commemorated the 16th anniversary of the dictator's death with speeches at a peaceful open-air ceremony here and marked the 55th anniversary of the death of the founder of the Falange party, José Antonio Primo de Rivera.

Dressing to order

Khartoum — President al-Bashir has ordered women in the civil service, schools and universities to wear Muslim dress. Assuming the added role of minister of culture and information, he pledged to "purify the mass media" and said governors of northern states had been ordered to ban mixed dancing. (Reuters)

Brando delay

Orléans — A French magistrate has delayed the return of Cheyenne Brando, daughter of Marlon Brando, to Tahiti while a psychiatric report is studied. Miss Brando, arrested after a judge in Tahiti reopened an investigation into the killing of her lover last year, had been ordered to fly out yesterday. (Reuters)

Pole canonised

Rome — The Pope has canonised Raphael Kalinowski, one of Poland's most revered figures. Kalinowski, who was born in Vilnius, was heralded in a service at St Peter's Church as a "saint of reconciliation". (Reuters)

Pledge on Honecker dismissed

By BRUCE CLARK AND IAN MURRAY

BORIS Yeltsin's promise to expel Erich Honecker, the disgraced former leader of East Germany, has failed to convince Bonn that opposition to this move from President Gorbachev and the central authorities can be overcome.

The pledge, issued by Nikolai Fedorov, Russian justice minister, appeared to be a judiciously timed goodwill gesture ahead of Mr Yeltsin's visit to Bonn on Thursday. However, its political effects have been dampened by German scepticism.

Mr Gorbachev confirmed his opposition to the expulsion of Herr Honecker, who was taken to Russia in March and is now wanted by the Germans for issuing "shoot-to-kill" orders, in an interview this week by the German magazine *Stern*. He described the former party boss as "old man... who languished for more than 10 years in jail under the Nazis" and suggested that Bonn should show the same spirit of forgiveness as the Russians had displayed over the wartime behaviour of the German army.

Yeltsin decrees, page 1
Leading article, page 17

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Fog of misinformation darkens Yugoslav conflict

Warring foes add deceit to armoury

From ANNE McELVOY IN ZAGREB

ONE could not get anyone in Zagreb to say so in so many words, but the town of Vukovar fell yesterday. Or at least there was "no longer any military way to save the town", as the information ministry spokesman hesitantly admitted, from which it was safe to assume that federal troops were marauding through the centre and it was all over.

The words "fall" and "defeat" were avoided throughout the day. Clarity was an early victim of the war in Yugoslavia and reality has become progressively enveloped in a blanket of fog.

Croatian Radio, the main purveyor of information on the Croat side, uses a vocabulary that underestimates the scale of events and it takes one a few weeks to discern the painful truth. If a town or village is reported as being in "strategic difficulties" it is safe to assume that the Croatian national guard has suffered heavy losses there. When, as yesterday, they admitted that the position was critical, it meant that the fight was over.

Never, ever, does it announce that a town has fallen; such a fate is referred to as being "no longer in Croatian hands" as if the stronghold had been briefly mislaid. When Kostajnica, the pre-Vukovar symbol of resistance, fell in September, its defeat was not divulged at all. The radio announcer simply opened the day's news with the words: "The counter-offensive for Kostajnica will begin in the next days."

The efforts to regain territory once seized are conspicuous by their paucity of coverage. Litotes mingle with hyperbole. The Croats, who are too sensitive to use the word "fall", routinely (and

falsely) announce that the army has dropped napalm. Both sides report that mass killings have occurred with huge exaggerations of the numbers involved.

As the desperate attempts to win the hearts and minds of Europe grow, the claims become wilder, the proof skimpier. There is still a reluctance to recognise that the reason that the West hesitates from coming to the aid of Croatia is due to strategic considerations and the fear of setting a precedent. But the Croatian media is convinced that officials in London and Washington can be outraged into submission, so the assault continues unabated.

The example is stark in the case of Dubrovnik which was reported to have been extensively destroyed, while Western correspondents inside the city say the damage is still minimal. It was after all built as an Adriatic fortress and is living up to its historic role.

On the Serbian side, the semi-official Tanjug news agency is also no stranger to wishful thinking, and spews out endless reports about irrelevant meetings held by federal groups as if to prove that Yugoslavia is still intact and functioning as a unit. The Serbian press has also become the army's mouthpiece: it declared seven times that Vukovar was about to fall before it did.

Much of the Tanjug output is aimed at demoralising Croatia, so the tendency to report defeats is equal to the Croatian practice of never reporting them at all. When last Monday Vukovar was still locked in resistance, Tanjug conveniently forgot it had already reported its fall and announced that new forces were being sent in.

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From TIM JUDAH IN DUBROVNIK

Ministers call for UN force

From TIM JUDAH IN DUBROVNIK

AN APPEAL for the demilitarisation of Dubrovnik has been launched by two French and Italian cabinet ministers, who were trapped by heavy seas in the Adriatic port last night. One politician, Margherita Boniver, Italy's immigration minister, called the Yugoslav military's siege of the city "absolutely criminal".

The demilitarisation plan, which was the idea of Bernard Kouchner, the French humanitarian policy minister, was to have been discussed with the Yugoslav military yesterday. M Kouchner, who described the situation in Croatia as "a scandalous war from the Middle Ages", said that the aim envisaged the withdrawal of all armed men from the area and their replacement with unarmed United Nations forces. The plan has received the backing of Dubrovnik's city fathers.

However, the boat carrying the ministers to talks with Yugoslav army representatives was forced to return to port because of poor weather. This meant that they were

unable to ask the military authorities why Radio Tito had broadcast on Saturday night a call-up for thousands of Montenegrin reservists. The broadcast, which came four hours after a general ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect across Croatia, said: "From the beginning your companions have been on the front line and they expect you to join them in the struggle against fascism. All who avoid this call will be punished for shirking their military duties." Most soldiers laying siege to Dubrovnik are Montenegrin reservists.

Dubrovnik has been besieged for more than six weeks and is without running water, electricity or fresh food. Yesterday afternoon an Italian naval hospital ship, the *San Marco*, was given clearance by the Yugoslav military authorities to sail for Dubrovnik with relief supplies and fresh water.

Signora Boniver and M Kouchner arrived on Friday. On Thursday European Community ceasefire monitors were withdrawn because of concern for their safety after four days of intense bombardment. The ministers arrived by hydrofoil. Shots were fired across the bows as the boat passed Split, which was being shelled. The ministers spent the weekend examining Dubrovnik and visiting refugees sheltering amidst the wreckage of tourist hotels.

● **Brindisi:** President Cossiga of Italy yesterday called on "all those who hold power in Belgrade" to end "terrorist operations" against the people of the Dalmatian coast. He compared the attacks to those of the Nazis against the people of Warsaw and Amsterdam. (AFP)

Shooting sullies a gilded life

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

THE claimant to the throne of Italy, Prince Victor-Emmanuel of Savoy, will learn in Paris today whether his gilded life in exile is to be rudely interrupted by a few years behind bars.

After a trial that packed the courtroom in the Palais de Justice last week, the 54-year-old prince — who boasts another 177 noble titles — will hear the verdict on whether he is guilty of manslaughter in a case arising from a bizarre shooting incident well over a decade ago.

According to the prosecution, Victor-Emmanuel, a tall, greying man with a taste for beautifully cut dark suits, fired the shot that struck a 19-year-old German in the groin as he lay sleeping on a yacht moored off Corsica in August 1978. Dirk Hamer died several months later when gangrene developed after an operation to amputate a leg. The prince has already served 50 days in a Corsican jail for unlawful wounding.

The present trial has sought, with less than total success, to establish the precise sequence of events that led to Mr Hamer's death, while his family is pursuing a linked civil action for damages against the prince.

There has never been any dispute over the basic circumstances: Victor-Emmanuel has always acknowledged that he had fired two shots in the course of a furious argument that erupted after he and his wife, Marina Doria, emerged from dinner to find that their rubber dinghy had been temporarily hijacked by a convivial



Victor-Emmanuel: served 50 days

bunch of Italian youngsters. Among the cast gathered in the assize court was Dirk Hamer's older sister, Birgit, a former Miss Germany who has pursued the prince loudly and relentlessly since the tragedy. Confronting her was the equally striking Marina Doria of Savoy, once a water skiing champion, who freely testified to having despatched 500,000 francs (about £50,000) to the Hamer family shortly after the accident.

An act of simple humanity, she insisted, to help with the victim's medical fees: when a lawyer suggested that amounted to an admission of the prince's guilt, she declared: "If I had intended to make amends for a wrongful act, I would have sent them a lot more." Seated in the dock, Victor-Emmanuel sat impassively through some undulating psychiatric assessments of his "immature" and "hyper-sensitive" character.

Fall of Vukovar, page 1
Diary, page 16

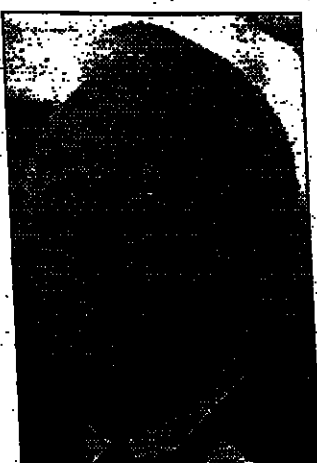
Defeated Duke vows to keep race on US agenda

From PETER STOTHARD IN NEW ORLEANS

DAVID Duke lost his battle for the Louisiana governorship early yesterday morning but immediately vowed to keep on fighting for what he said was "the right cause and the one that will prevail".

By an expected large margin, Louisiana voters rejected the former Ku Klux Klansman's bid to reduce welfare spending, cut taxes on big business, and roll back "affirmative action" programmes for black workers. In an election which became one of the most closely watched gubernatorial contests of modern times, Edwin Edwards, the Democrat and former governor, won 61 per cent of the vote in a comeback after four years' disgrace following corruption charges.

Yesterday he called his victory a triumph for "decency and fairness" and began a new campaign to undo the harm to Louisiana's image that the months of media concentration on Mr Duke had created, he said. Pollsters explained the unexpected size of Mr Edwards' victory as a response by voters to a barrage of television advertisements emphasising the economic damage to Louisiana that a Duke victory would cause. In extended political com-



Edwards celebrating his victory in New Orleans

cial, one lasting 30 minutes, Louisiana voters were told that thousands of jobs would leave the state if they elected so controversial a governor.

Black turnout was 80 per cent, higher than that of white voters for the first time and the highest overall level in Louisiana's history. "We were terrified of what a Duke governorship would mean," said Jessie Brown, aged 18, from New Orleans. Black leaders had called the election "a wake-up" for their community, lecturing young voters in particular on how it was now their responsibility to

protect the civil rights heritage of Martin Luther King.

Mr Duke yesterday criticised the heavily financed coalition of forces which defeated him, yet saying that his message would gain "hundreds of new messengers" as a result. That is now a serious worry for President Bush, whose pleasure at Mr Duke's defeat will be offset by the likelihood he will now have to face rising discontent on the Republican right and primary challenges next year from Mr Duke and Pat Buchanan, a conservative columnist.

National Democrats now see a new "Dukin" weapon with which to beat Republicans if they try to attract the support of voters opposed to affirmative action, while the White House hopes that by skilful campaigning next year Mr Bush can prevent himself as against Mr Duke and racial voters. But this is treacherous ground politically.

Until the poll results were declared, there was a tense atmosphere throughout Louisiana. In one black precinct close to the French quarter in New Orleans, police arrested a black judge for talking to newspaper reporters too close to a polling booth.

One American journalist



Losing platform: Duke, flanked by daughters Kristin, left, and Erika, prepares to concede defeat in Baton Rouge, Louisiana

who had a Duke souvenir attached to his notebook was told to "get his white-boy arse back to Los Angeles while he still could". Around Mr Duke's closely guarded house in a New Orleans suburb, reporters described how they had to remove stickers from

their cars before they dared park them anywhere in the state capital. A vanload of \$5,000 (£2,800) Calaboula hunting dogs with Duke stickers attached to their coats added to the uneasy atmosphere.

Mr Duke was seen as a

local superstar even by those who voted against him. One 30-year-old elector said that he could not support Mr Duke because of the economic damage that a victory for the maverick Republican would bring to Louisiana. But he held up his daughter, aged

seven, for the candidate to kiss as he left the voting booth. A snapshot with Mr Duke in 1991 will be something for many a Louisiana photograph album in years to come.

Big chance, page 16

Army tied to Jesuit murders

From REUTER IN NEW YORK

AN AMERICAN congressional panel says senior Salvadorean army officials plotted the 1989 killings of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador. The New York Times reported yesterday.

The investigators concluded that General René Emilio Ponce, now defence minister and then army chief of staff, and other officers planned the attack at a meeting the day before at the Salvadorean military academy. The killing of the priests, their housekeeper and her daughter caused an international outcry. The New York Times said the defence minister denied that he had anything to do with the plot and said he was not at the academy that day.

An enquiry by House of Representatives Democrats cited strong circumstantial evidence for their conclusion. The House special task force on El Salvador, previously accused army personnel of trying to cover up the involvement of senior officers.

An American investigator said General Ponce's role in the meeting was "passive", the newspaper said.

Moi accuses US of plotting rally

From SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

KENYA and America were yesterday heading for a diplomatic confrontation after President Moi's government accused staff at the American embassy here of helping opposition politicians to organise a pro-democracy rally in the capital at the weekend. The protest, declared illegal, was put down with ruthless efficiency by paramilitary police.

One man was reported to have been trampled to death as crowds fled baton-wielding police who also fired tear gas at the protesters gathering at the Kamukunji grounds, where the Saturday rally was to be held. Many others were injured in clashes with police.

Kenya's pro-democracy opposition movement is now in disarray as seven key leaders of the banned Forum for the Return of Democracy have been arrested. On the eve of the rally Oginga Odinga, the first vice-president of Kenya, was arrested. On Saturday Paul Muite, the chairman of the Kenya Law Society, and Mulinde Muliro, a former cabinet minister, were among six others detained.

Soon after their arrests on Saturday, President Moi's office issued a statement accusing America of orchestrating the incidents. It said that American, German and Swedish diplomats were with the politicians when they were arrested although independent observers saw no diplomats at the scene. "The [Kenyan] government has expressed great concern and under dismay at the open involvement of the US diplomats who have

masterminded and abetted the supposed opposition movement in Kenya," the statement read. "It is clear that the six arrested [on Saturday] have been operating under the cover of some foreign missions based in Nairobi."

Coming before a Paris Club meeting of the world's most powerful economic nations this month, President Moi's charge will only aggravate the worsening relations between Nairobi and Washington. Smith Hempstone, the American ambassador to Kenya, said yesterday that although the Paris Club is primarily an economic meeting he would be "astounded" if Kenya were to receive a boost in foreign aid after the events at the weekend. "We are not going to be in a hurry to do them any favours," he said. "It is outrageous."

Diplomats in Nairobi said that President Moi's outbursts could lead to more countries following Denmark's example and cutting off aid to Kenya at a time when help is sorely needed as the economy dwindles. "They managed to put down the rally without too much bloodshed and then Moi goes crazy and starts trying to pick a fight with the West," one European diplomat said yesterday.

About 25 foreign journalists, including this writer, were also arrested at the Kamukunji grounds on Saturday but then released. The bureau chief of United Press International news agency was, however, badly beaten by the police.

Jackson's wildcat project rebounds

From WILLIAM CASH IN LOS ANGELES

With his spindly body, boyish voice and love for animals, you would have thought that Michael Jackson, the pop megastar, was a harmless sort of fellow. But the violent and bizarre sexual content of his video *Black or White*, which was premiered in America and Britain last Thursday night, has so incensed many of his millions of fans that he has been forced to slice at least four minutes from the \$4 million (£2.26 million) film, the first released from his long-awaited album, *Dangerous*.

The cut footage includes a sequence in which a black panther changes into Jackson, who then climbs on top of a car in a dimly lit street and starts wantonly to smash the windows with a crowbar and dance on the roof. He then wiggles and thrusts his hips around and plays with the flies of his trousers. John Landis, the director of the \$100,000-a-minute film, said the controversial sequence was "a performance piece" that could stand on its own. But Jackson has been accused of stealing the crutch-rubbing idea from his friend Madonna, who employed a similar sequence in a video to generate publicity. The film by the "gloved

one" broke all viewing records in the five-year history of Fox TV after being introduced by Bart Simpson, who appears in the video. The following day, the switchboards at the station were swamped by complaints.

"It upsets me to think that *Black or White* could influence any child or adult to destructive behaviour, either sexual or violent," said Jackson in a statement. "I have always tried to be a good role model and therefore have made these changes to avoid any possibility of adversely affecting any individual's behaviour."

A half-page review in *The New York Times* at the weekend asked whether the violence was a befuddled attempt to assert Jackson's masculinity and "a desperate cry for attention from one of the world's most famous people". Although the song is supposed to have a simple anti-racist theme, its message is complicated by the fact that Jackson's brother has recently accused him of spending vast sums on altering his skin pigment chemically to become more "white" than black.

Jackson is reported to have recently signed a \$1 billion deal with Sony.

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CINEMA

Growing up is tough in Hollywood

What price a moppet who outgrows cuteness? David Robinson looks at the mixed prospects for the tots who turn into screen titans

Gregory Scott has just been signed by a Hollywood company on an exclusive five-year contract as a film director. What makes the deal a shade unusual is that Gregory is only five years old, attends kindergarten at Tarzana, California, and is still struggling to read and write.

He was engaged on the strength of home videos he had made with his school friends and his first assignment will be to direct a segment in a one-hour children's television special. He will earn a four-figure weekly salary in his first year, five figures later: the company declines to be more specific.

As the youngest professional director in history, Gregory has been much featured on television, telling the viewers, "I sure like being here better than school". Asked why he believes grown-up actors will take direction from one so small, he shows the instincts of a Michael Winner or a Michael Cimino. "Cause if they don't do what I say, they know they're OUT!" he squeals.

Hollywood seems indeed to have fallen prey to babies. While recession is diminishing the bargaining power of other stars, 11-year-old Macaulay Culkin can call the shots alongside Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mel Gibson and Julia Roberts.

Culkin is the little boy in *Home Alone*, with wide-open eyes, a wide-open mouth, and not many expressions but a piercing scream. His comic exploits in foiling burglars with booby-traps and electrocution delighted audiences worldwide and made *Home Alone* the third biggest box-office earner of all time. In the past month, the film has broken all records in the video cassette market, with sales of 15 million.

Culkin is now a Hollywood personality, presenting Emmy awards and guesting in Michael Jackson's controversial, latest promotional video. More important, he is said to be getting \$4.5 million

(£2.5 million) plus five per cent of the gross box-office take for his role in *Home Alone II*, which starts shooting next month. (*Home Alone* has already grossed about \$500 million.)

Meanwhile the trade papers are filled with reports of the negotiations of Culkin and his father (a would-be actor, like most movie kids' parents) for his future films. Because Macaulay wanted to play in the forthcoming film *The Good Son*, though the director Michael Hoffman is said to have preferred another actor, the company has

'Child stars are lucky if they can pass the adolescent sell-by date without being discarded'

postponed the production, at great cost, to accommodate him.

Culkin is not the first child to have Hollywood at his feet: long ago there were Jackie Coogan, Mickey Rooney, Shirley Temple and Judy Garland. Their experiences, among others, show that the career expectancy of child stars is dubious. Already there is something ominous in the choice of words with which Columbia Pictures rejected a request for a magazine interview with Culkin: the parents, they said, were "watching this commodity very closely".

Commodities have limited shelf life; and child stars are lucky if they can pass the adolescent sell-by date without being discarded. Louis B. Mayer is said to have told 14-year-old Mickey Rooney: "Adolescence is repulsive."

A few have won through unscathed. Roddick MacDowell, Kurt Russell and River Phoenix are

among those lucky ones who have easily metamorphosed into adult actors. Shirley Temple Black is a diplomat. Jodie Foster has followed in the footsteps of another child star, Ron Howard, to become a successful director with her first film, *Little Man Tate*.

A week or so ago I tracked down Billy Jacobs, America's first child star, who was in Keystone Comedies in 1913, before Charles Chaplin arrived there. A child prodigy, he retired at the age of eight and tried to forget the moving pictures. Today, a highly articulate man in his early eighties, he is talking about his first career again: "That was a kind time, not like now. They cared for me, saw that I got the right things to eat, that I had my lessons. I couldn't have come to any harm."

The ones who did come to harm generally seemed to be the sweetest and cutest. The greatest of them was Jackie Coogan, Chaplin's co-star in *The Kid*. Jackie was so exploited by his mother and stepfather that his misfortunes led to the passage of what is still known as "The Coogan Act", designed to protect the earnings of child actors.

The misfortunes of Judy Garland, introduced to drug use while still a child at MGM, are notorious. Bobby Driscoll, the nine-year-old star of Walt Disney's *Song of the South* who won an Oscar at 12, died at 31, after years of drug abuse, in an abandoned tenement. Last year, at the age of 16, Drew Barrymore, the adorable seven-year-old moppet in *E.T.*, published an autobiography, *Little Girl Lost*, which detailed years of drug abuse and institutionalisation.

Culkin, too, must recognise that his wide-eyed face may well be his fortune only till acne takes possession. He must make provision for the future. Who knows, one day he could have the luck to be directed by Gregory Scott.



Macaulay Culkin: the appeal of the star of *Home Alone* may fade with the onset of adolescence

Writers reign

CHARLES Haughey, the Irish prime minister, will open the new Dublin Writers Museum this afternoon. Two 18th century residences in Parnell Square have been requisitioned to house the museum and an Irish Writers' Centre for contemporary authors. The museum boasts such curiosities as the death mask of Patrick Kavanaugh, Brendan Behan's typewriter and James Joyce's piano; it also houses early Irish texts of the Bible and material relating to such literary giants as Swift, Bram Stoker, Yeats, O'Casey, Beckett and Flann O'Brien. Ireland already has specialist museums devoted to Joyce, Shaw, Yeats and Pearse.

Last chance...

THERE may be argument about the standing of Vanessa Bell and her sometime lover Duncan Grant as fine artists. But few have ever denied their bounding invention as designers and decorators, starting with the elegantly amateur Omega Workshop and becoming much more professional later. This show at Spink & Son Ltd (071-930 7888), Duncan Grant and Vanessa Bell: *Design and Decoration 1910-1960*, shows their talents at their freshest and best. Until Friday.

ARTS REVIEWS

Diana Ross, Verdi and Rostropovich

page 26

Advance Australia, fair enough

Robert Cockburn welcomes a new showcase for contemporary art, feeding the voracious Australian public appetite for culture

them feel starved of information about the arts. Visitors are amazed at the amount of information people in Australia have about artistic issues, far more than, say, people in the middle of the United States or Europe.

The MCA, the country's first major contemporary arts venue, would be a guaranteed crowd puller if only for its stunning waterfront location between Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Opera House. And on its opening day there was a startling immediacy about the place. Last-minute hammering and the smell of fresh paint gave the im-

pression that the exhibited artists had just put the finishing touches to their work. More than 400 paintings and sculptures are displayed in halls that glow with Sydney's natural sub-tropical light. Works, including Roy Lichtenstein's *Foot and hand*; Michael Johnson's early abstract *One Two Three*; Sean Scully's *Orange Slide*; and Maria Kozic's *Masterpieces* (Warhol), a 1986 synthetic polymer on wood, are grouped thematically, with the reasoning inscribed on the walls.

The most prominent theme is the one that haunts modern Australia: identity, and guilt over the eradication of the 50,000-year-old Aboriginal culture. Anglo-Saxon Australia still seems one step away from its contemporary story, uneasy that its brief colonial history is dissolving into one of the most cosmopolitan countries on earth, and hating to admit it. And yet this is the landscape being defined by Australia's best artists today. They are documenting a changing culture more honestly than the media or popular entertainment dares.

Australian artist Juan Davila, for instance, comes up with a grim and hilarious satire in a series "The Fable of Australia". These portray both the degradation of the Aborigines and Eighties greed, writ large in the slogan "I don't know much about art but I know what appreciates."

State input is marginal. The MCA is an achievement of ingenuity on a shoestring budget for Parosien and co-curator Bernice Murphy. A £2 million bequest 20 years ago by the Australian artist John Power went only partly to realise the museum and its collection of some 4,500 works.

These are housed in the superbly converted former maritime services headquarters on Circular Quay - Australia's equivalent to Ellis Island, where a migrant nation arrived in ocean liners in the Fifties and Sixties. In the next bay around from the Museum of Contemporary Art, in another world-beating location, stands the Sydney Theatre Company's Wharf, an exposed-timber warehouse, overlooking the harbour and the bridge.

Forced ever nearer to self-sufficiency, the company has to balance its performances between popular works by predominantly overseas writers and high-risk pieces by

such writers as Michael Gow, Australia's most exhilarating new playwright. Gow's latest play, *Faraway*, opened this month, shocking a fairly easily shocked public by showing men kissing men.

"A lot of Australians want to be treated like the stranded relatives," says Gow. "They don't want that cold blast of realisation." His work has moved on from the obsession with finding a national identity. Castigated by the critics at home, he is critical of the chummy establishment that sits Australia's scandals, and of the failure to push Australian work overseas.

After years of trying, his first play is about to be staged in Britain. *Faraway* is Edinburgh's *Thrust*. But he says the British still show "a very patronising attitude to work that comes from here. I've had much more success in US regional theatres. They don't have the British attitude that 'we invented theatre'. We need to shove the things in their faces. They are prepared to make jokes about *Neighbours*, but at least it's better than the 80 per cent of crap from Britain."

Yet, for all the interests in "The Yarts", there is still a feeling in Australia that the real stuff is something that comes from overseas. The "Cultural Cringe" is a phrase that sums up the bogs of elitism of Australia's middle classes. As Barry Humphries also said: "Australian society is a contradiction in terms."



Masterpieces (Warhol), a painting by Maria Kozic, is one of more than 400 works on show at the new Australian Museum of Contemporary Art, in Sydney

Barry Humphries' debauched Australian character Sir Les Patterson fixed the notion in our minds when he laughingly dismissed them as "The Yarts". The truth is that Australians not only take the arts more seriously than their European counterparts (sometimes insufferably so), they are also practising deconstruction to breathtaking effect with the opening of the new Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney last week.

"He just wanted to see how they were fitted on," said the attendant who spotted a founding member trying to pull off one of the many white cubes on *Atmosphere Chromoplastique 154*, the museum's prized 1966 example of French painter Luis Tomasello's work. The inquisitive visitor was one of 6,000 Australians who clamoured to join the museum.

"The works are so tactile," the attendant said. "Sometimes it is hard to resist

touching." Anywhere else, the man would have been removed in a headlock. But the T-shirted army of young artists and specialists, who replace uniformed security men here, show such enthusiasm for the MCA's works (most hidden away for 20 years), that they might almost be selling them to you.

The connection is not entirely coincidental. Australia's arts structure and audiences have changed. The award-winning artist Keith Looby says art has been taken over by "corporate dictators" and a middle-class establishment stifling creativity. Art, Looby says, is equated with "good living, food and wine".

Leon Parosien, the MCA director, says: "Australia is a very literary society. Australians are paranoid with distance and isolation. It makes

TELEVISION

Not shaken, not stirred

In the smoky gallery of a first world war London music hall, an intelligence chief and a would-be secret agent sit anonymously amongst the cloth caps and muffers of the common man, waiting impatiently while on-stage a tarted buffoon finishes a comic song. They have come to see the evening's star attraction, an exotic female dancer who appears under the promising soubriquet "The girl you can't forget".

The curtain rises to reveal Harriet Walter in Spanish flamenco *mujita*, performing a slow haughty dance with fan, shawl and kiss-curls (though luckily without a rose between her teeth), and glowering in the limelight like a hot-blooded Latin woman with

pain in her heart. Backstage afterwards, this lovely woman is frogmarched from her dressing room and taken into custody, to be released only on condition that she help British intelligence to trap a stage-door johnny: an Indian anti-British terrorist called Lal, who works for the Germans.

It sounds like the ground-work for a rattling good adventure story - in which the *sine qua non* would be the violent death of the dancer, possibly by deliberately stopping a bullet intended for someone else. But what was strange about last night's first story in the Ashenden series (BBC 1) was that it contained virtually no adventure and minimal suspense.

Ashenden (Alex Jennings) is a successful, debonair playwright, ambitious to prove himself worthy of a job in wartime intelligence, but this first mission is actually an extremely bathetic one, devoid of personal danger. He must accompany the dancer to the French bank of Lake Geneva and merely dictate provocative letters for her to send to her admirer - the idea being that the terrorist's passion will draw him irresistibly across the lake from the safety of Switzerland. If the mission does not succeed, the consequences are - well, the consequences are actually unspecified.

So we forget about action and suspense (we are reasonable people), and say "So it's about the power of love, then, is it?" But *Ashenden* (written by David Pirie and directed by Christopher Morahan) was so damned cool as a piece of drama that even the all-important love interest was distinctly chilled. The central question was: will the terrorist come? Yet although scene after scene took place on the

jetty (watching the picturesque lake-steamers going in and out), personally I never cared whether the man would come, and was only vaguely interested when he at last showed up.

I did not feel sorry for the unseen Mr Lal; and I had no idea how he felt. Was he a bad man? He was on screen only long enough for him to be shot dead, so it was impossible to share his dilemma or tragedy.

Meanwhile Giulia (Harriet Walter) suffered agonies over penning the letters but still seemed mostly concerned with saving her own skin, which is an unsympathetic trait in this kind of context. If only she had stopped a bullet or two; or attempted to signal at night by waving storm lanterns from a mountainside. If only we had seen her gazing desperately at her lover's picture, and breaking a bead necklace with her bare hands.

Oh well, such sensationalism and passion were not to be. Finally, in fact, the question centred on whether a playwright's instincts about human nature can be an asset in the espionage business; and the answer was yes, especially when one's boss (played by Ian Bannen) is so peculiarly deficient in the finer feelings department that he is borderline psychotic.

Ashenden, in common with his original creator Somerset Maugham, seems to be a mixture of cynic and humanist; he is cold and immovable (like a fish in aspic), yet his mission succeeds precisely because he understands the human heart. Perhaps his wartime experiences will provide some kind of sentimental education. We shall see.

LYNNE TRUSS

WHY DO THE BRITISH WORRY ABOUT LEAGUE TABLES?

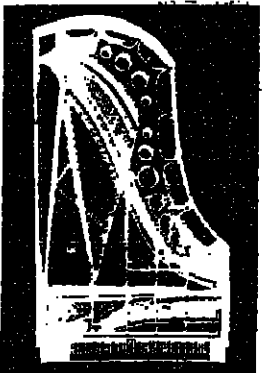


Baroness Perry does not believe that schools and teachers have anything to hide from parents. She explains why in *The TES* this Friday.

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Prudential Awards for the Arts



LYNNE TRUSS

On week 13 of the Orkney child abuse enquiry, Peter Barnard looks at the hidden tensions of a remote island community

Behind the mask of the Orkneys



Aspects of the islanders: Shona Stamper, an English "settler" and her Orcadian business partner Gus Glue and (right) Brigadier Malcolm Gray Dennison, the Lord Lieutenant, who worries for the future of the Orkneys

A WIND that feels like something ordered up for a remake of *Moby Dick* is crashing around Kirkwall. Fishing boats sway under the assault and in Bridge Street, just off the harbour, valiant folk heading north take a breather by leaning against the pale which is heading south. Rain spits to the face and permeates the clothes. Lamps sway, their bulbs flicker. In this bleak coast all you need is a healthy dose of recent newspaper headlines to believe that something evil could have happened here. But wait. Gales blow down the Charing Cross Road and rain spits on Surrey. Leave the night to itself and wake up next morning to bright sunshine and a breeze. Walk up Bridge Street past the bakery and the craft shops, talk to friendly people bemused by what their own social services department appears to have visited upon them. Dispense with the melodrama and you are left with only two questions worth addressing: are island communities different? And if they are, how are they different?

ON February 27 this year, nine children were taken from their homes on South Ronaldsay, 15 miles south of Kirkwall and joined by a canoeist to the main Orkney island. It was a dawn raid. It put all of the Orkneys, not just South Ronaldsay, into the headlines and under the microscope alongside Cleveland and Rochdale. What did or did not happen in the Orkneys is the subject of an enquiry in Kirkwall town hall for which mainland lawyers fly in by chartered plane and bus. The central allegations about child abuse, including alleged satanic rituals lit by car headlights at a shallow quarry, have, at the enquiry, very nearly been overshadowed by charges over the behaviour of the social services department. The four families from which the nine children were removed are not Orcadians.

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Sheila Thomas is a 47-year-old Englishwoman who with her husband Chris, aged 43, moved to Stromness, on the eastern tip of the main island, 15 years ago. She runs a guest house and some holiday flats, he runs a restaurant in the town. "We find there is complete trust between the Orcadians and ourselves," Mrs Thomas says. "You get the occasional awkward old beggar but the striking thing is the lack of any class distinction. You play golf with the butcher, the baker, the solicitor. And you feel safe: we came from near Ipswich in Suffolk and there we were always afraid for the children. In fact, some time ago we had to go away for two months and we left one of the children with a local family without qualms."

LANDLADY
'We went away and left one of the children with a local family without qualms'

But Stromness is not South Ronaldsay. There is a theory, and that is concerning the nature of the latter. For most of the people there, the word "Press" may as well have four letters but in private conversation some of the local people show a pride in the island which is separate from their pride in the Orkneys. The island acquired a causeway link with the main island only in the 1940s and that has helped to maintain an independence of spirit which is less apparent elsewhere.

That independence has made South Ronaldsay the butt of jokes elsewhere in the Orkneys. In Kirkwall, it is said that people were sent to South Ronaldsay when they became too odd to continue living in John O'Groats, which is regarded as odd.

HOUSE MOVERS

'Some incomers bring preconceived ideas about how things should be done here'

"We have no fear at all," she says. "If we had, we would hardly be taking Emma into that community. The real problem between Orcadians and incomers is the attitude of some incomers. They bring preconceived ideas about how things should be done into a community which has always done things in a certain way. Many of these people stay for a couple of years and then give up and go away complaining about the locals, but it is their own fault."

Mr Glue defines the tension as being between city types and rural types, wherever they come from. "You get people who move here after a holiday without the slightest idea of what they will do, they'll even buy a house on the basis of an aerial photograph."

There is another aspect of the same problem. Incomers to this type of community start on a high but they often fail to notice that they are being watched. They mistake friendliness for gullibility.

they fail to learn the rules. Mr Glue says: "Folk here operate a loan system. A tractor, a car, they'll lend it to you. But they expect something back. Very often incomers will borrow, say, a tractor this year but they offer nothing in return and the following year they go back for the tractor and the farmer says 'Aye, £10 an hour'. And the incomer thinks 'bastard'. When the Stampers arrived at their present home on Rousay, an island of a couple of hundred people north of the main island, they set themselves the ultimate test of assimilation: Phil Stamper, who had run a foundry in England, set about becoming a fisherman. He had been a diver, but fishing communities are not famous for welcoming people they suspect of dabbling. Mrs Stamper says: "We had nothing but help. They helped us get creels (for lobster) and Phil learnt as he went along. He used to sit in front of the fire at night learning knots from books. But he put something back in with his diving, he was able to help the community."

This inter-dependence is a recurrent theme all over the islands. The Orkneys have been settled since 4,000 BC and one of their best-known writers, George Mackay Brown, wrote a book titled *What is an Orcadian?* in which his central answer was: "A fine mixture-matter. That morsel from a locally

developed lexicon needs no definition to be understood.

Gus Glue's father, a naval man, married the girl in this particular port. The islands are founded on many such service marriages, as well as long and short-term visitations from the Picts, the Vikings and assorted whaling fleets.

All of that was, however, gradual: an extension of natural change. If there is concern about modern invaders, it lies in the suddenness and the artificiality of people moving in for reasons which are a mix of economics and a romantic attraction, notions which are often mutually exclusive.

Brigadier Malcolm Gray Dennison, an Orcadian who, 15 months ago, became Lord Lieutenant of the islands, lives alone in a landmark of a house on South Ronaldsay. He overlooks St Margaret's Hope in one direction, Scapa Flow in another, the flare from an Elf oil terminal in a third. From his conservatory he describes this panorama lovingly, but he worries for the future.

"The fishing here is being ruined by over-fishing and they are not the fault of the people who come here," he says. "Visitors we want, tourists we do not want. The difference is crucial. If it is not controlled. But these matters for Orcadians to sort out, they are not the fault of the people who come here."

Brigadier Dennison is as bemused as most other people by the child abuse allegations:

LORD LIEUTENANT
'When I left a light on at 4am it was reported to the district nurse by a kindly neighbour'

"Let me tell you how close the community is. The other night I left a light on and someone saw it burning at 4am. At nine the district nurse came to see if I was ill because the light burning had been reported to her by a kindly neighbour."

Whatever has or has not happened on Brigadier Dennison's islands, it has been shown elsewhere that in child abuse cases, the truth is an elusive. But notoriety will fade, leaving the Orkneys to get on with the task of assimilating new generations and ideas while maintaining the indefinable qualities which make the community viable and attractive.

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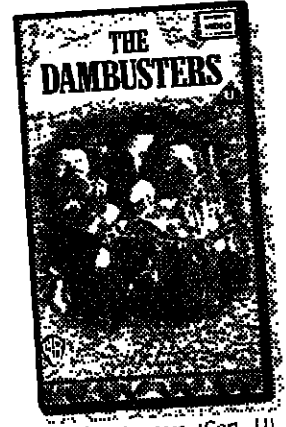
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Tight limits on Labour

Peter Riddell believes a Kinnock cabinet will be less radical than expected

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

It is time to take Labour seriously. After the next election it is as likely that there will be a hung parliament, and possibly a minority Labour government, as that the Tories will be returned with an overall majority of 25 to 30 seats.

No one is quite sure what a Labour government would mean. Party leaders both offer reassurance and promise change. Would a Labour government be conservative or radical? Ministers are torn between denouncing Neil Kinnock for abandoning all his principles in pursuit of office and arguing that socialist intentions are not far below the surface. How much has Labour really changed?

There are equal dangers of exaggerating and of understating Labour's shift. Labour has purged itself of the fever of the early 1980s. Bennisism is now the faith of a small sect. The party is back in the social-democratic mainstream. But rejecting Bennisism does not mean embracing Thatcherism. The ideological convergence in British politics is as much because John Major has softened the edges of Thatcherism — by, for example, stressing the maintenance of high quality public services — as because of Labour's policy review. We are back to the party competition of the 1950s and early 1960s.

There is a tendency to see politics in either/or terms, when in practice it is more of a spectrum. Labour has moved towards the centre but stopped short of the (also shifting) Tory position. The two main parties do not have an identical appeal or values; they represent different interests and groups. Labour still has a greater faith than the Tories in the state's ability to have a beneficial influence, though now mainly as a catalyst.

Three election defeats and a near desperation for office have been the spur to change. Take Europe, where there has been a dramatic shift between the call in the early 1980s for withdrawal from the Community and the present enthusiastic endorsement of closer union. Of course, Labour is keen to take advantage of Tory splits and has had a free ride, being able to express general support for Britain playing a positive role in European developments, while leaving the government to face the difficulties of negotiations.

But the shift is genuine, in part because trade unions and local authorities, the party's main constituencies, find it easier to deal with the commission in Brussels than the government in London. When Labour was still in the doldrums, Jacques Delors offered a European vision of the future more appealing to the unions and the party than the immediate frustrations of Thatcherism. That itself is a source of suspicion for Tory critics who argue that Labour is seeking to dress up its old interventionist aspirations in Euro-clothes.

But the shift is genuine, in part because trade unions and local authorities, the party's main constituencies, find it easier to deal with the commission in Brussels than the government in London. When Labour was still in the doldrums, Jacques Delors offered a European vision of the future more appealing to the unions and the party than the immediate frustrations of Thatcherism. That itself is a source of suspicion for Tory critics who argue that Labour is seeking to dress up its old interventionist aspirations in Euro-clothes.

Whatever their private inclinations, Labour in power would be more constrained than in the 1960s and 1970s. Britain's membership of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European Monetary System means that there is little room for manoeuvre on macro-economic policy. At least initially, a Labour chancellor would have to prove his monetary and fiscal prudence. The absence of exchange controls and the internationalisation of leading companies also reduces the leverage of government over industry.

A Labour government would be able to offer change only within these limits. Admittedly, there would be no shortage of new ministries and quangos under Mr Kinnock. Labour would also tilt tax and social security policy back in a more progressive direction,

'Labour's difficulty is to assure voters life will improve without scaring them'

how to assure voters that life would improve under a Kinnock government without scaring them. That is reflected in the party's convolutions over spending and tax policy. While individual spokesmen talk about billions of underfunding in this or that sector, the leadership says that improved public services will be financed from tax revenue produced by economic growth. Labour does not at present intend to produce a detailed costing of its proposals. But there is now hardly any room to raise borrowing in view of the Tories' spending plans.

The party's already battered response is to argue that, unlike the Tories, it is not offering the unsustainable goal of tax cuts as well as improved public services, and that, unlike the Liberal Democrats, it is not considering an increase in basic tax rates. Mr Kinnock's advisers say their priority is to avoid being elected on a false prospectus, leading to disappointment. One shadow cabinet member talks of raising hopes, not expectations. That is hardly an election winning slogan.

Much would, of course, depend on any Labour government's position in Parliament — and an overall majority looks unlikely at first. The probability is that there would be considerable continuity in macro-economic and foreign policy, changes at the margin in the distribution of taxes and benefits, and a flow of relatively cheap public-sector initiatives. Labour is offering a choice, but not a counter-revolution.

Louisiana's defeated racist is now a power in the land, says Peter Stothard in New Orleans

Duke's big chance

David Duke, still ebullient amid the landslide of votes cast against him, predicted yesterday that his message would go marching on. Many of his opponents, particularly those who were not drunk on their unexpectedly decisive success in the Louisiana governorship race, reluctantly agreed with him.

Throughout the bayou state it had been a long battle between fear and anger. When the votes were cast on Saturday, fear of being governed by a former Ku Klux Klan member and neo-Nazi brought more black voters to the polling booths than ever before. Fear of economic isolation under a Duke governorship brought white professionals out to support the corruption-tainted Edwin Edwards in numbers not even he had expected.

In the French quarter of New Orleans the mood was Mardi Gras until dawn yesterday as "stop Duke" campaign workers celebrated. But throughout the rest of the country politicians greeted the result more soberly. From the west coast to the White House minds were concentrated on the 55 per cent of Louisiana's white popula-

tion who were not dancing. There are Duke voters in every state, said Bob Mulholland, the California Democratic political director who was one of many professional campaigners to come to Louisiana to feel for themselves the Duke effect. Mr Duke drew his support from whites who are suffering economically and blame their plight on the 1960s civil-rights programmes that protect black jobs and benefits. Anger lost this race. Fewer than expected whites backed the Duke message on Saturday. But the intensity of those who did — the frustrated, sobbing rage at the final rallies — has left a deeper mark on those who attended than have the voting figures.

For the past few weeks, while Democrat and Republican leaders in Washington have been tinkering with the unpopular "affirmative action" laws in a new Civil Rights Act, Mr Duke has been saying that racial employment

preference for blacks is wrong. Most American whites, according to opinion polls, agree with him. Early this year Mr Duke stood in the dirty margins of America's race debate, where President Bush says he belongs. Today, buoyed by almost 700,000 votes and national press attention, he stands as the rock around which all tides of that debate must now flow.

Like many significant political events, the results of the Louisiana election will be unclear for some time. Immediate effects may conflict. On the one hand, senior Republicans, including the president, will find it harder to fight against unpopular racial employment rules for fear of being dubbed a racist and a Duke. On the other hand, lesser political figures, in northern cities as well as throughout the south, will be tempted to try for themselves the Duke recipe.

The overall result is likely to be a heightening of racial tension. Mr

Duke himself is planning to stand for Congress and to challenge Mr Bush in the Republican primaries next year. His defeat has heightened the pressure on him to avoid the charge of being merely a permanent campaigner, a Jesse Jackson of the right. A successful congressional campaign in a white district of Louisiana ought to be within his grasp.

Louisiana Democrats yesterday boasted that the "evil tide" of Dukeism had been turned and that their adversary would become even less electable. But that is what they and many others in the state want to believe. The chief concern among business and labour organisations, after months of bad publicity for Louisiana, is to return as fast as possible to making money and attracting tourists.

Mr Duke is no longer merely a local figure. His successes so far may be attributed in some degree to the bizarre history of Louisiana,

which 150 years ago exhibited a peculiarly pure form of racism, which suffered exceptionally after the civil war from imposed black governments, and was created in its modern form by the authoritarian rule of Huey Long. Mr Duke's future, however, will be no more easily confined to his home state than was that of the early Joe McCarthy, whose anti-communist witch-hunts of the 1950s bear portentous similarities to the 1990s campaign for white rights. It is hard for democracies to deal with those who are wholly willing to abandon consensus politics.

Two of the more sober Edwin Edwards supporters on Saturday were from the Midwest. They had watched the campaign and likened Duke to an early master of science fiction, the "Thing" that marches onwards, wherever bullets, electric shocks or barricades are in its path.

There has been much talk of bullets in Louisiana in recent weeks, and still more talk of barricades. An economic recovery is considered the most reliable weapon for stopping the message of David Duke. Even that may not be enough.

Let's go with the cash flow

Bernard Levin dreams of matching a loss-making business pound for vanishing pound

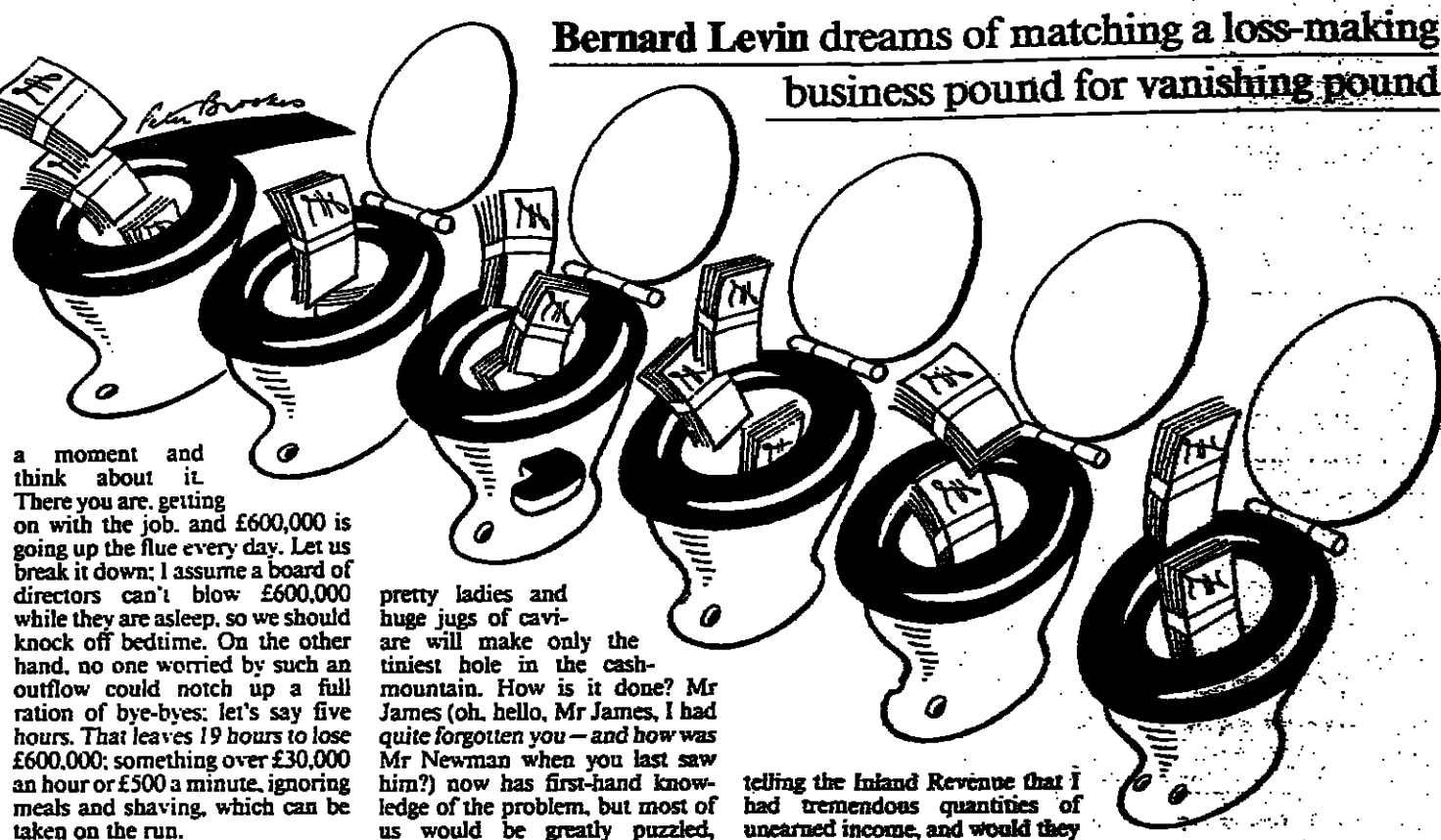
I have a curious ambition, excited by a story in the financial pages; you will think me crazy when you know what it is, but first I must set the scene. There is a company called Davies & Newman Holdings. Newman was the founder of the business, but things went rather wrong, and in a reorganisation a year ago a Mr James moved in and became the boss, while Newman's holding of the shares shrank from 62 per cent to 4 per cent. (Well, poor old Newman, say I.)

Since the company's business came largely from an airline, when the Gulf war began and "not even pigeons", as Mr James put it, "were taking to the air", it is not surprising that business was going rather wrong. Actually, it was going quite frightfully wrong — the shares fell to 50p, though they had once been \$45p (the FT graph is enchanting — a perfect silhouette of the Himalayas), but James, though not necessarily Newman, was sure that there was sunshine behind those black clouds. Anyway, the company borrowed \$81 million from the bank (you try it): the story does not reveal which bank it was, though I hope — no doubt vainly — it wasn't mine.

Then there was a shareholders' meeting, at which James announced the moves which will, according to James, bring immense profits to the shareholders. They have not yet done so, unhappily, and my lack of understanding of these matters precludes any comment from me about another company announcement to the effect that directors' pay was going up from £501,000 to £704,000, including fees.

But all this is by the way. The bit that fascinated me, and left me with a curious longing, was that at one time the company "was losing £600,000 a day". That is my yearning. I want to lose £600,000 a day. I told you I would think me odd, and I don't blame you. If we are bandying nouns about, most people would presumably wish the pounds to settle in their own pockets. So would I; but although huge riches would please me greatly, they would not stir the extraordinary feelings that the debt version does.

Just stop what you are doing for



a moment and think about it. There you are, getting on with the job, and £600,000 is going up the flue every day. Let us break it down: I assume a board of directors can't blow £600,000 while they are asleep, so we should knock off bedtime. On the other hand, no one worried by such an outflow could notch up a full ration of by-byes: let's say five hours. That leaves 19 hours to lose £600,000: something over £30,000 an hour or £500 a minute, ignoring meals and shaving, which can be taken on the run.

Wouldn't it be fascinating? Of course, if we were gaining £600,000 a day it would be, as I say, very pleasant, but we can dream of winning the pools, whereas we can't dream of not winning the pools, unless we have very boring dreams. But losing £600,000 a day would be so unimaginably lurid an experience that it would be quite transfiguring.

There is, to start with, the obvious question: how is it done? However agile you are, it is not easy to get rid of £600 grand in a day — and certainly not every day. What's the trick?

I must rule out gambling on the ground that you can lose the lot on one horse or one spin of the roulette-wheel, which I call cheating. (And anyway, think of your dismay if the outsider came home at 50-1! No; in this endeavour it is necessary to lose £600,000 a day, and I want to know how you propose to do so.)

Don't waste your time on luxuries: diamond necklaces for

pretty ladies and huge jugs of caviar will make only the tiniest hole in the cash-mountain. How is it done? Mr James (oh, hello, Mr James, I had quite forgotten you — and how was Mr Newman when you last saw him?) now has first-hand knowledge of the problem, but most of us would be greatly puzzled, particularly if we have no shares.

Nevertheless, if it was done that way once, it can be done twice. I can ask a stockbroker for the name of the worst share in the market — one that hasn't declared a dividend since 1822 — and tell him to buy thousands of them. But you can see what's coming, can't you? The word is out: Levin is into Consolidated Moonbeams plc in a large way, and Levin knows a thing or two. In no time, Consolidated Moonbeams, last quoted in 1937 at eightpence a hundredweight, has shot up to £42 a share close to close (whatever that might mean — Levin, truth to tell, does not know a thing or two, indeed knows nothing at all about these arcane matters), and so far from losing £600,000 a day, I am coining millions every minute.

King Midas didn't know when he was well off. But speculating in shares is clearly not on, at least for a man who needs to lose £600,000 a day. For a moment, I thought of

telling the Inland Revenue that I had tremendous quantities of unearned income, and would they kindly come and tax it; but apart from annoying them — annoying the Inland Revenue must, in the catalogue of dangerous sports, be second only to saddling a crocodile — they would take one look at my assets and classify me as a nutcase.

Besides, however big a sum I had for taxing, we have to remember that this is not a static problem; I have to lose £600,000 every day. How?

I could go back to the company and ask how I might manage it, but apart from awakening fresh grief, it would be a pretty feeble admission that I couldn't lose my own £600,000 a day. And that's the target: not a penny less than £600,000 oncers, and by the rules of the game I have to lose the lot between midnight and midnight every day. It is all very well for me to say I yearn for the feeling of losing £600,000 a day, but somebody has to ensure that the sportsman's luck is there for losing, and it won't help for mother to point to this company and say: "Well, if

they can do it, why can't you?" She won't be satisfied if I say: "Mother, some people have a knack for losing £600,000 a day; all she will say then is 'practise, practise, practise'." (That's what she said about my violin-playing, and did I knock Heifetz off his perch?)

Am I never going to have the satisfaction of losing £600,000 a day? I tell you, it's the Devil's own job to imagine the sensation, never mind really feel it. But perhaps nature has dealt with that; we all have had news from time to time, and we bear it as best we can; when man was being created, nobody imagined that losing £600,000 a day would be an experience to relish, so the key to having it was left out. *Carpe diem quam minimum credula postero.* So said Horace, anyway, by which he meant "snatch the day, and distrust the morrow". It was all very well for him, but he didn't have to lose another £600,000 on both.



...and moreover MATTHEW PARRIS

The population of our country being more than 50 million, I reckon that if as few as 1 per cent of us write a two-page letter to the Boundary Commission for Wales, then the commission will be obliged to consider more than a million pages of new argument concerning a matter I am about to relate. My proposals are made in a spirit of pure malice. This is the story so far...

For 70 years, the constituency of Brecon and Radnor has been called Brecon and Radnor — and the world has continued in its orbit. However, "following an enquiry at Lampeter on 5 December 1990", reports the boundary commission, a new proposal that it be renamed "Brecon and Radnorshire" was aired. It came, we learn to our surprise, from Radnorshire district council. The proposal was published in April 1991.

It was not uncontroverted. Oh my goodness me no! "Formal objections were received" from the MP, Richard Livesey. Brecon borough council (note: Brecknock — the plot thickens) "thought if likely" that it would have "wished to enter a counter-proposal" to Radnorshire district council's plans, if it had known about them earlier. Ha!

The assistant commissioner is an honourable man. There was no choice but to hold another enquiry. And so it came to pass that this July, amid the splendour of the council chamber of Powys county council, Gerard Elias QC sat down to hear the

further views of the people and their tribunes.

The Brecon and Radnor Conservatives suggested that the commissioners let well enough alone and stick with the old name. Conscientious, perhaps, this was to miss the point of these jamborees, they added that if we must have one "shire" then we should have two: "Breconshire and Radnorshire". Plaid Cymru, in the shape of Rhodri Thomas, agreed that one shire was anomalous but could not follow the Tories in proposing two. Why? "Pompous, pretensions and far too long-winded" were just a few of Mr Thomas's many words on the subject.

The Liberal Democrat MP, you will be astonished to hear, could not make up his mind. "There are two options," he wrote: "on balance" they "probably" not change, but they very well might, and he wouldn't mind if they did.

But not to Brecon and Radnorshire, he felt. Better still would be an altogether new idea, advanced by the Welsh Liberal (not Liberal Democrat) party. Their Rif Winfield proposed "Brecknock and Radnorshire".

Geoffrey Charles Read, BA, C Eng, described by the commissioners as "chief executive of the Radnorshire borough council" (a mysterious new body, as, so far, we have met only the Radnorshire district council) "knew from personal knowledge" that the name Radnorshire "was warmly welcomed by many organisations and individ-

uals. As for whether Brecon should become Brecknock Mr Read "was understandably reticent... indicating that it was more a matter for Brecknock borough council". Curiously, Brecknock borough council, which had complained about the first proposals, chose to make no comments on the second. Why? We may never know.

The final recommendation from Mr Elias QC is magnificent. A monument both to lucidity and justice, the text is infused with a deep sensitivity and strong sense of fair play: "... obvious strength of feeling... lack of rooted objection... I have no doubt... a matter of logic as well as general acceptance... I therefore recommend..."

Brecknock and Radnorshire it is! Brecknock gets "Brecknock" and Radnorshire gets "Radnorshire" and the constituency gets seven more letters in its name. And everybody has to change notepaper and commit the new title to heart.

But not quite yet. For that is only a "revised" recommendation. The world has until November 24 to propose further revisions. Anyone can write in — to Mr R. MacLeod, the secretary, Boundary Commission for Wales, St Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP — with views and ideas. What about Brecknock and Radnock? For instance, or "Radon and Brecknockshire", or "Radbrecknock", or "Reddibreck", or... isn't democracy marvellous!

Judgment on Vukovar

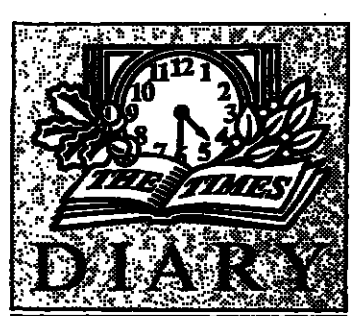
VUKOVAR has finally fallen after 86 days, but were the Croats crying wolf when they warned of its impending fall months ago? The question has some significance, with Yugoslav federal forces now claimed to be on the point of toppling Dubrovnik.

General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, a military historian, says: "I don't think the Croats have been at all alarmist. The Serbian firepower was infinitely superior and the Croats had every reason to fear that."

However, the fall owed little to Serbian skill. Sir Anthony says: "Despite their superiority the federal forces either did not have the heart or the skill for street fighting, which is the only way you can hope to take a town. Just look at the stand-off with tanks and ships ringing Dubrovnik."

"I would say this is nearer the Spanish civil war than the second world war. The chaos in Spain was characterised by an appalling lack of skill and knowledge of fighting. By contrast, in the great city battles of the second world war, troops were involved in long-drawn-out close action in street fighting. In Stalingrad the Germans sent their troops on to the streets, with both sides losing colossal numbers of men."

However, his view is not shared by Sir Michael Howard, professor of history at Yale University. He says: "I would hypothesise that if the Serbian army had wanted to, it could have overwhelmed Vukovar earlier. There were probably also disagreements in the high command on taking the town, with some arguing that international opinion would not allow an all-out thrust. It is difficult to say what finally decided the fall,



but it could have been to secure the town to strengthen their position before negotiations."

● Edward Heath has been given a head start in today's Oxford Union debate on European union. Just before his duel with Norman Tebbit begins, a bronze bust of Heath, a former president of the Union, will be unveiled in the debating chamber.

Man of affairs

THE LATEST biographer of George Orwell, Michael Sheldon, has clashed with the family of a man he suggests had an affair with the author's first wife. Sheldon's book, *Orwell*, suggests a liaison between Eileen Blair and George Kopp, one of Orwell's friends, while the two men were on the same side in the Spanish civil war. But Kopp's son, Quentin, aged 44, says the claims are untrue. "My father was a charismatic man. No doubt when he came into a room, all female heads turned. I bet Eileen was one of them," Kopp says that "Sheldon's claims are based on the testimonies of impressionable 18-year-olds" who were in the same military unit fighting the fascists.

But Sheldon is unrepentant. "My research strongly suggests an affair." As evidence, he cites his interview with Pierre, Kopp's son

by his first marriage, who confirmed that there was a "strong possibility" of his father philandering.

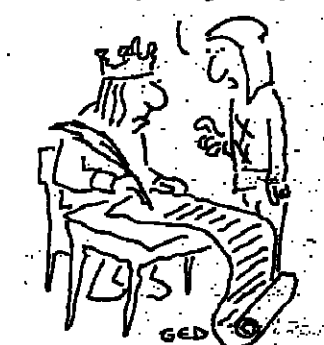
Sheldon adds: "I don't know how Quentin Kopp can be so sure. He is keen to defend his father's honour. But how can he know what happened? He wasn't alive when these events took place. When his father died he was only seven years old."

Charter tours

FLEDGLING democracies around the world may soon have their very own versions of the Magna Carta if they can stretch to the asking price of £50,000. Salisbury Cathedral, needing £500,000 to complete its £6 million appeal to rebuild the spire, is creating 13 facsimiles of its copy of the document — one of four in existence — to raise the money.

"They will be made available for wealthy nationals of democratic nations to purchase with a

The photocopies on the blink



view to presenting them to their own parliaments," writes the Dean, the Very Rev Hugh Dickinson, in the cathedral newsletter. Included in the price is the prospect of a formal presentation of the document by the Prince of

Wales, president of the spire trust, though sadly the ceremony will not take place at Runnymede, where King John signed the original document in 1215.

The scheme has its detractors. Martyn Goff, chairman of Henry Sotherton, the antiquarian bookshop, says: "I can't see anyone paying that much money. Anyway, I think that facsimiles of such a precious document dilute the original because reproductions are so good now. I'm sure there are better ways of raising money."

Then there is the parious economic state of the new democracies. Tereze Svilans, of the Latvian delegation in London, says: "We have much more important things to spend our money on, even if this is for charity. We need to build up our health service. With an economy the size of Boots, I can't see us getting involved in such a scheme."

G-whizz

FRANCE has not only won the race to develop the first high-speed Channel tunnel rail link, it has achieved a coup of one-upmanship with a state-of-the-art simulator to train the tunnel drivers.

British Rail last week unveiled its own simulator, but the SNCF version is streets, or rails, ahead. The British model has a video recording of the whole journey from London to Paris, complete with simulated leaves and snow on the line. To the French these are minor accessories. Their version will simulate the G-force and give a feeling of what it is actually like to accelerate and decelerate.

"By the time they make their first trip underground our drivers will feel they have already made the journey," says one French source. British Rail is putting a brave face on it. "We don't think all this is necessary," it says.



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ITV


2.50 The Virtuoso Violin: Frederick eight programs: Mendelssohn's Riddle plays Arthur Benjamin (Vivie Sorante); Kreisler, an Torte (Praetorius) and Allegro: with Wilfrid Parry, piano; Berlioz (Harold in Italy, Op 16: with the Philharmonic SO of London under Hermann Scherchen)

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Bonds boost Savings

By SARA MCCONNELL

INCOME bonds were the biggest money spinner for National Savings last month, bringing in a net £73.5 million from sales of £123.9 million. They none the less made a smaller net addition to government funds in the first seven months of this financial year than the rival index-linked savings certificates.

This year, income bonds have brought in a net addition of £401.4 million, while index-linked certificates have made £685.6 million. Over the same period last year, index-linked certificates brought in £815.5 million, and income bonds £601.1 million.

Index-linked savings certificates, fixed interest savings certificates and the investment account added to government funding last month. The net addition from index-linked savings certificates was £62.4 million, after gross receipts of £107.9 million, while fixed-interest savings certificates brought in a gross of £144.2 million. After repayments of capital and accrued interest, the net addition to government funds was £32.4 million. The investment account contributed £47.8 million out of deposits of £97.2 million.

The Children's Bonus Bond brought in £17.5 million. Since its July launch, it has made a net addition of £68.7 million. Premium bonds brought in £10.9 million.

Schemes in which National Savings had to pay out more than the sum received included the Yearly Plan, the ordinary account and save-as-you-earn.

The total amount invested in National Savings at the end of October rose to £38.2 billion. Accrued interest was £156.3 million, of which £93.6 million was repaid, leaving a net addition of £62.7 million, to be included in the total.

Unions and firms expect 5-7% rises

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH employers and trade unions seem to have settled on 5-7 per cent as the "going rate" for this year's pay rises, says Incomes Data Services, the pay research group.

The wide range between pay settlements, which was common earlier this year, has narrowed. In a report published today, IDS says there have also been fewer pay freezes in recent months, and more long term deals.

The assessment from IDS, one of the most authoritative pay research groups, comes only days after Ford workers accepted a two-year pay deal which gives them a rise of just 5 per cent this year, their lowest increase for a decade.

The bunching of settlements and apparent willingness of both companies and employees to take an increasingly long-term view suggest that the recession has reached, or passed, its nadir.

It also indicates renewed confidence that inflation is likely to stay low for some time. In the year to October 15, according to Friday's figures, the retail prices index rose by just 3.7 per cent.

IDS says the renewed trend of two-year settlements is reminiscent of the period after the 1980-2 recession. In the past few years, uncertain inflationary pressures caused a return to one-year deals. Now, says IDS, "the requirements we saw as necessary for long term pay and conditions agreements would appear to be falling into place."

Companies are keen to avoid the disruption of annual pay negotiations, and to achieve deals which will allow them to plant labour costs accurately. They also want to create a framework within which extensive changes in responsibilities and conditions of employment can be negotiated, the IDS says.

Minimum wage 'must be defined'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE potential impact upon pay inflation of a national minimum wage far outweighs effects it may have on unemployment, says Sir Pat Lowry, former chairman of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas).

Annual increases in a national minimum wage could become a target for pay negotiators throughout industry, as skilled workers battled to maintain pay differentials, he argues. "For the economy as a whole, this would be a much more important consideration than the employment considerations," he writes in *PM Plus*, the Institute of Personnel Management magazine.

Sir Pat's assessment suggests that attacks by Michael Howard, the employment minister, on Labour's proposals for a national minimum wage are misguided. Despite claims that a national minimum wage would cause a sharp rise in unemployment, Mr Howard has failed to carry the argument. Labour is convinced its proposal is a vote winner. Evidence from France and Italy suggests the impact on employment of a minimum wage set at the level proposed by Labour would be modest.

Sir Pat says it is very difficult to quantify the impact of a minimum wage unless it is more precisely defined. The most crucial clarification, he argues, is whether the minimum would define basic pay, or whether it could include performance payments, shift premiums, and anti-social hours payments.

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But Sir Leon will have the full backing of the Community's free-marketters, with Britain set to give its support to the commission's new annual surveillance of state-controlled companies' accounts.



Talked down: Sir John Egan agreed a compromise to the CAA pricing proposals

Pressure on BAA to reduce airline charges

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

BAA will today be ordered to cut the cost of landing and parking aircraft at its three main airports under the Civil Aviation Authority's revised charging formula.

BAA, formerly the British Airports Authority, has been battling with the CAA over its proposal to impose a cut of 8 per cent on the rate of inflation each year for the next five years. This, said BAA, would have forced the group, of which Sir John Egan is chief executive, to abandon such cherished plans as the Paddington to Heathrow rail link and Heathrow's fifth terminal. An initial compromise, enabling BAA to raise charges as they began to spend the money on those projects, was rejected by BAA on the ground that it would deprive airlines of long-term price stability.

After detailed talks, the CAA has toned down its demands and will today tell BAA that it must still cut its landing charges, but less severely.

Airlines pay £4,791 to land a Boeing 747 loaded with 265 passengers and park it for four hours at Heathrow, with smaller aircraft paying proportionately less. The charges, which provide less than 40 per cent of BAA's income, raised £327.3 million last year. For the next five years, such revenue will gradually form a smaller proportion of BAA's total income, forcing the group to rely on increasing turnover from shopping and other commercial operations.

Airlines have largely supported BAA in its battle with the CAA, and most would happily pay more if the improvement to services they say is desperately needed could go ahead. The CAA, however, says BAA, as a near monopoly, should achieve a rate of return on investment of only 7 per cent. BAA considers this to be grossly inadequate because it needs to spend well over £1 billion in new projects if it is to keep up with the expected growth in demand for air travel.

The new deal with the CAA means that BAA can proceed with the Heathrow to Paddington rail link. Terminal five is one step nearer, although it has not been formally approved, largely because of the continuing wrangle over who should pay for road improvements. Ironically, the squeeze on

BAA charges comes at a time when the CAA is finalising plans to raise charges to airlines to meet its own investment plans. Price rises of at least 20 per cent are to be announced by the CAA next spring. These will cover the whole range of CAA activities, from the licensing of pilots to en route navigation charges and aerodrome fees. The CAA does not have to refer its increased charges to any outside body, although it needs government approval to borrow money. The CAA maintains that, as a state-owned body, it does not make a profit and has to recover the cost of providing better air traffic control services directly from customers. It is an argument BAA also used in its discussions with the CAA, with only partial success.

Attwoods director targeted

By MARTIN BARROW

ATTWOODS, the waste management company, is believed to be reviewing the position of its finance director after a heavily discounted £80 million rights issue.

Stuart Lee, who joined from Plesman a year ago, has borne much of the responsibility for Attwoods's difficulties, which came to a head after bankers refused to roll over a £29 million loan.

The company was forced last month to revise its 9-for-25 rights issue after institutions refused to support it. The new shares were offered at 160p each, against 175p in the market. Questions are now being raised about the role of Mr Lee, who arranged short-term loans for long-term acquisitions.

By end September, borrowings were £125 million, with £29 million due immediately, after fundraising efforts proved unsuccessful. In April, Attwoods tried to raise £80 million via an American placing, but raised just £12.5 million. Recently a \$150 million American placement and £100 million British revolving credit facility were aborted. Holders' meet on Thursday to approve the rights issue.

Rough ride for Brittan

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

SIR Leon Brittan faces a rough ride in today's European Community industry council, with the De Havilland affair likely to surface again.

In a debate on competition, France and Italy will complain that Sir Leon is unfair towards their state sectors, the largest and most heavily subsidised in the EC. They will argue that the De Havilland case, which pitted Sir Leon against the state-controlled Aerospatiale and Alenia, is just the latest example of how the competition commissioner's policies weaken EC industry.

But Sir Leon will have the full backing of the Community's free-marketters, with Britain set to give its support to the commission's new annual surveillance of state-controlled companies' accounts.

"We take the opposite view to France and Italy," said a British official. "We support transparency in the sector, and we believe that Sir Leon acts even-handedly. He inflicts his misery on companies equally across the Community."

The industry council has never quite established itself on the Brussels political calendar, while it invariably comprises weighty topics from biotechnology to support for the coal and steel industry, most of its thunder is stolen by other councils. Finance ministers make all the big macro-economic decisions and internal market ministers tend to do the industrial fine-tuning, which leaves the industry council itself laying down vague statements of policy that have little clout. "It can be a bit of a non-council," said one commission source.

As it is now widely recognised that the EC's industrial policy should be non-interventionist, the meetings tend to disintegrate into a majority of countries happy with the status quo and a disgruntled France and Italy, wanting the council to be more dirigiste but with little chance of swaying the debate. Thus today ministers will call for more effective international trade rules in consumer electronics, and a speedier transition to common standards in the sector, without proposing to spend any money on it. "We believe EC industrial policy should be about getting the environment right, but no more than that," said a British official.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Non-gilt sterling issues booming

AS SHOCKS to the capital markets go, this summer's Moscow coup ranks a poor second to the invasion of Kuwait a year previously, at least as far as the sterling markets are concerned. Figures in the latest Bank of England *Quarterly Bulletin* show sterling issues continuing at high levels during the third quarter.

Despite a moderate easing from earlier in the year, new fixed-rate non-gilt sterling issues still totalled £4 billion. The contrast with the comparable periods in 1990 is sharp. Between the end of the second quarter last year and the end of the third, issues of fixed-rate sterling debt more than halved to £887 million, while floating-rate issue levels fell even further, from £2.3 billion to £930 million. The total value of all non-gilt sterling issues during that period was just over £2 billion, a figure almost matched in September alone this year.

Perhaps the surprising thing is not that activity fell as far as it did last year but that there were any issues at all in one of the most unsettled periods in recent history.

In general, 1991 has been remarkable for the massive amounts of new capital raised in the sterling markets. In both debt and equity, 1990's totals have already been surpassed as companies have continued to unburden their balance sheets of the banks' debt mountain built up in the Eighties. Naturally, with the stock market in its recent perky mood, equities have dominated. Equity raised by

UK issuers (excluding privatisations) already totals £10.75 billion, twice the sum for the whole of last year. Fixed-rate issues have lagged behind, but at £6.3 billion, they also significantly exceed the 12-month figure for 1990.

On the non-sterling markets too, British issuers have been active. Foreign currency bond issues by UK private sector borrowers totalled \$3.8 billion in the third quarter, up from \$3.3 billion for the previous three-month period.

The international syndicated loan markets had another quiet quarter, with new credits totalling just \$29 billion, including \$1 billion for Kuwait alone. The banking sector, still under pressure over capital adequacy, remains highly sensitive to credit quality, and has significantly reduced the credit available. This has pushed pricing up to some degree, although a table in the bulletin shows that it is still far short of the levels of the Seventies and early Eighties. Average margins on syndicated credits to UK companies fell for a decade before bottoming at about 20 basis points in 1988.

No wonder companies were eager to take advantage of the bargain basement offers available. And how some of them have regretted it since. Again, it was the Kuwait invasion that provided the biggest shock to the system. It caused a collapse in the Tokyo stock market that devastated Japanese banks' balance sheets, triggering widespread withdrawal from overseas lending.

JONATHAN PRYNN

Why end of recession does not signal recovery

THE recession is over. Or so the Chancellor will be able to declare when this week's real GDP data show the first quarterly increase after four consecutive quarters of decline.

Of course, this does not necessarily imply that recovery is under way, as the Bank of England would have us believe in its latest assessment of economic conditions. Most, if not all, of the increase in third-quarter real GDP will reflect the recovery in North Sea oil production from depressed levels during the summer. On-shore economic activity is likely to be flat, with sectors such as construction and engineering still depressed.

But, of course, these are all backward-looking indicators and in the eyes of those advocating the notion of recovery, should be ignored in favour of forward-looking indicators, such as the proliferating surveys of business and consumer confidence.

These measures of confidence have, in the main, recovered sharply from the very depressed levels registered earlier this year. They suggest the worst of the

recession (as measured in terms of year-on-year declines in real GDP) was over by the second quarter.

Since then, in my opinion, the economy has simply moved sideways. The danger, at this juncture, is a divergence between expectation and reality. Improving confidence does not necessarily mean a commensurate and immediate recovery in output and demand. Indeed, the CBI's industrial trends surveys for April and July showed that actual output and demand over the relevant four-month period turned out to be much lower than manufacturers anticipated.

In the October survey, manufacturers were reported by the CBI to be expecting "stable or slightly rising output" over the next four months. The odds of this happening may be undermined, however, by the CBI's additional finding of "a further rundown in stocks".

Either way, the outlook for the real economy could well be a lot bleaker than the authorities would care to admit. In this regard, the experience of other countries such as America, Canada and Australia (which are attempting to make the

transition from recession to recovery) is none too promising.

The inability of these economies to achieve significant lift-off in activity appears to be mainly attributable to the large levels of outstanding debt in the corporate, household and financial sectors. While the relationship between the build-up of debt pre-recession is not systematically related to post-recession spending, it does appear that in the present situation, both corporates and households are unwilling to resume borrowing to any significant extent. In Britain, this implies there will be little appetite for spending on more expensive durable goods or fixed investment.

Both employment and real income prospects remain uncertain. This is especially the case if the Treasury's forecast of 6 per cent growth in exports next year fails to materialise. The chances of this happening are high, bearing in mind that 53 per cent of British exports go to the EC.

With the German economy expected to slow down sharply because of higher interest rates and in-

creased taxation, the demand for British exports will likely fade. In America, which accounts for 12 per cent of British exports, the risk of a "double-dip" recession is still acute, given that a large part of third-quarter growth reflected more moderate destocking rather than any genuine increase in demand.

Against this background, the bright spot for the economy is the prospect of lower inflation and a significant transformation of inflation expectations. However, the prospect of reverting to the low levels of inflation seen in the Fifties and Sixties is contingent on developments in the labour market. It is not clear that wage bargainers have incorporated into their thinking the discipline generated by ERM membership. Thus there may be a repeat of the situation in 1986 when retail price inflation dropped to 2.4 per cent although underlying average earnings growth failed to fall below 7.5 per cent. In the ERM, this means downward pressure on the exchange rate or increasing unemployment — or both.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the Bank gives warning that achiev-

ing lower inflation will require "consistent application of counter-inflationary policies". Translated this means a relatively high level of interest rates for some time.

The autumn statement spending announcements, which shift the fiscal stance into expansionary mode, imply counter-inflation measures will have to be again applied from the monetary end. This type of mix — a tight monetary and looser fiscal policy — is in principle good for the exchange rate. As yet this is not reflected in sterling's position in the ERM.

Political uncertainty and the potential for a Conservative party rift over EMU will keep international investors on the sidelines for the time being. For the gilt market, where funding prospects are also helping to cap any lingering enthusiasm, the near-term outlook is cautious, although the likelihood of a pronounced slide in gilt prices is low. Let's hope the light at the end of the tunnel is not simply the Chancellor holding a torch.

NEIL MACKINNON
Yamaichi

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Who really wants Britain to come top of the anti-inflationary league?

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Eagle Star losses continue to prey on BAT

YET another troubled reporting season from the insurance sector continues this week. BAT Industries is expected to announce a further £50 million of mortgage guarantee losses at Eagle Star tomorrow, making £170 million for the nine months to end-September.

Other insurance profits are likely to be well up, however, and a further bonus will be provided in the predicted £245-million swing in unrealised gains. UBS Phillips & Drew forecasts third-quarter pre-tax profits for BAT of £288 million (£36 million).

The following day, Commercial Union is expected to report relatively modest pre-tax losses of £25 million (£27.2 million profit) for the nine months. The company has little exposure to mortgage indemnity business and third-quarter losses may be only £5 million.

A move to the more conservative accounting policy that was adopted by Royal Insurance last week could lift this to £20 million. The end-September solvency margin will be about 50 per cent, says County NatWest, and the net asset value is forecast at 487p a share.

TODAY

Associated British Foods, the sugar and bread group of which Garry Weston is chairman, will report pre-tax profits for the 12 months to end-September up 8 per cent to

£330 million, according to the food manufacturing team at Smith New Court.

Despite the expected contribution from British Sugar, fears remain, notably for milling and baking, where margins have been under pressure. A final dividend of 4p would make 12.5p for the year.

The interim results from BAA are expected to fall 15 or 20 per cent to between £160 million and £175 million.

Bob Carpenter, at Kleinwort Benson, is plunging for interim pre-tax profits of £72 million from BET. The dividend is expected to be unchanged at 4.25p. The sharp downturn in plant services should be partly offset by lower interest charges.

SG Warburg Group's interim figures should show a healthy improvement to £84 million. Little good news is likely, however, from Seligman Group, the insurance broker, according to Simon Willis at County NatWest. Three-quarter pre-tax profits are estimated at £74 million, down 6 per cent.

Interims: BAA, Babcock International Group, BET, British Investment Trust, Chambers & Hill, Danks & Co., Dunhill Holdings, Emap, Mercury Asset Management, Ogilvy & Mather Group, Sedgwick Group (third quarter), Stratton Investment Trust, Warburg (SG).

Finals: Anglo Irish Bank Corp., Associated British Foods, Diploma, F&C Eurotrust, Glasgow Income Trust.

Economic statistics: C&I survey of distributive trades (October), (100th

survey); retail sales (October - provisional); public sector borrowing requirement (October).

TOMORROW

Anglian Water is expected to unveil a 10 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 19.25p for the six months to end-September. Pre-tax profits could reach £98 million, up from £84 million, on margins above the industry average.

High fish prices will cost Hazelewood Foods about £1.5 million in the first half year, according to Smith New Court. Pre-tax profits are estimated at £23 million.

Thera EMH's pre-tax profits will probably be slightly down on last year at about £90 million because of rationalisation costs and flat demand. The interim dividend is expected to be held at 9p.

Interims: Anglian Water, BAT Industries, Baxi, Baxi Micro (Holdings), Castrol, OMI, Micro Systems, Fleming, High Income Investment Trust, Goldsmiths Group, Govett American Endeavour Fund, Hazelewood Foods, Readcut International, River & Mercantile, Geared Capital and Income Trust, Young & Co's Brewery.

Finals: Cosalt, Huntingdon International Holdings.

Economic statistics: Gross domestic product (output-based) (third quarter - preliminary); manufac-

turers' and distributors' stocks (third quarter - provisional).

WEDNESDAY

Pre-tax profits at Banks Hovis McDougall are likely to be about 12 per cent up on last year at about £150 million. Milling and baking, where there is over-capacity, remains a problem.

Other divisions are trading satisfactorily and an interest contribution will boost the bottom line. The final dividend is estimated at 9.43p, making 13.25p, up 4 per cent.

Courtaulds will produce interim pre-tax profits of £90 million (£87.1 million), according to the chemicals team at Smith New Court. An increase in the dividend from 3.4p to 3.6p is predicted.

Whitbread starts the interim reporting season for the big brewers with figures expected to show a fall to between £130 million and £142.5 million.

Interims: Asea AB, Commercial Union (third quarter), Courtaulds, Forward Group, Foster (John) & Son, Hoskins Brewery, Partland Textiles (Holdings), Scantronic Holdings, Thomson Corp (third quarter), Vespene Thymorcroft Holdings, Wagon Industrial Holdings, Whitbread, Willis Corson Group (third quarter), York Waterworks.

Finals: Fulcrum Investment Trust, Rank Hovis McDougall, Shari Group, Strategem Group.

THURSDAY

British Gas's interims for the six months to end-September will, as usual, provide little guide to the full year. County NatWest is putting down a marker of £100 million (£36 million).

Interims: Black Arrow Group, British Gas, Chloride Group, Hogg Robinson, Locker (Thomas) Holdings, London International Group, Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings, Property Partnerships, River and Mercantile Trust, Rothmans International, Storehouse.

Finals: Barrett (Henry) Group, Ferry Pickering Group, Morland & Co, National Australia Bank.

Economic statistics: New earnings survey, 1991, Part 1. Results for regions, counties and age groups.

FRIDAY

Interims: Bulgin (AF) & Co, Esche & Co (third quarter), Foreign & Colonial German Investment Trust, Worn Investment Trust.

Finals: McCarthy & Stone, Wills Group.

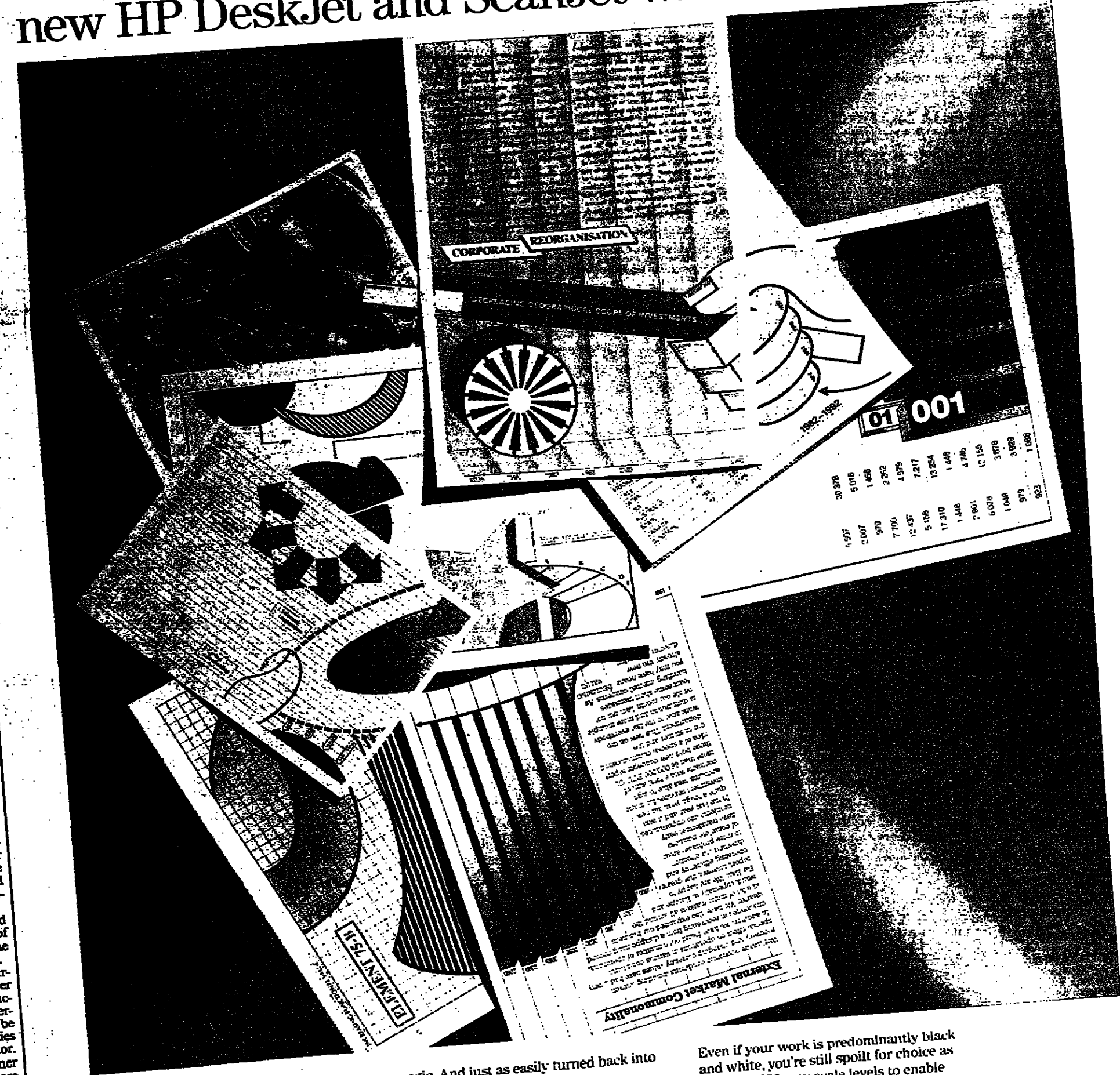
Economic statistics: Balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (October).

JONATHAN PRYNN



Sweet news: Sugar is expected to help raise profits at Garry Weston's AB Foods

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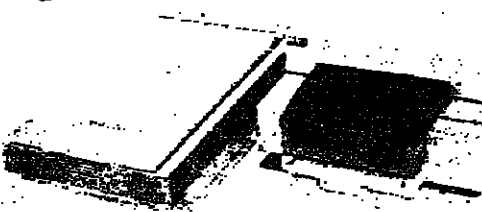
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N Brown acquires Odhams for £1m

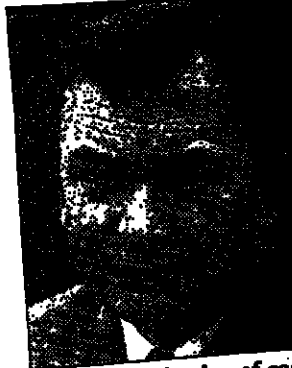
By ANGELA MACKAY

N BROWN, the specialist home shopping company, has paid £1 million for the business and assets of Odhams Leisure Group, the distributor of Bullworker, the home exercise machine, and Postman Pat books.

Odhams, which passed into

receivership earlier this year, is a direct mail company which produced turnover of £8 million in 1990 and still boasts more than 200,000 active customers. The company also sells videos, compact discs, knitting patterns and a range of health products.

Jim Martin, managing director of N Brown, said Odhams was "highly complementary to our core home shopping business". He plans to inject management and cash, and increase the business by offering its products to N Brown's customers. N Brown considers there is a lot of untapped potential in Odhams, particularly in the continuity clubs for videos and compact discs. At one stage before the business was run-down, Odhams had turnover of about £14 million.



Martin: injection of cash

SMALLER COMPANIES

EMH has easy ride on Palmer's record

RICHARD Palmer is the car executive who introduced British motorists to the beloved Lada and sold them by the thousands. He also built up Western Motor Holdings from 230p a share on flotation in 1987 to 100p three years later when Tozer Kemsley & Milbourn made a recommended offer.

Now he is in the driving seat at European Motor Holdings, formerly Cargo Control, into which he reversed his third market vehicle, Automobiles of Distinction, last year.

Several months were spent tidying up Cargo Control, whose interests spanned motor components, load restraint equipment and packaging. The process proved more painful than expected, as reflected in results for the 15 months to end-March showing pre-tax losses of £2.7 million, including exceptional charges of £1.75 million.

KPMG Peat Marwick, the company's auditors, have resigned and are contesting a claim by EMH for compensation by Cargo Control.

Meanwhile, EMH gave the first indication of its true ambition with the £7.1 million purchase of nine car dealerships from Thomas Robinson, the engineering company, funded via a £9.5 million share placing. The deal was

accompanied by a £2.4 million rights issue as part of a capital reconstruction.

The dealerships acquired from Thomas Robinson had sales of £31.68 million last year, generated by 13 franchises, including Volkswagen, Audi, BMW, Renault and Ford, located in market towns.

Operating profits held steady at £1.4 million in 1989 and 1990, despite the depressed car market, and Mr Palmer believes returns can be substantially improved through better cash management.

The business was acquired at a discount to net assets of £7.8 million, reflecting the weak market for dealerships.

EMH is likely to take further advantage of the lower exit multiples now being accepted to expand its dealership network but may also be looking for other activities related to the motor sector.

Conversely, some former Cargo Control businesses are likely to be sold.

The response to the fund raising suggests that the City focused on Mr Palmer's record rather than Cargo Control's uninspiring performance.

Those who did well out of Western Motor Holdings will watch EMH with interest.

MARTIN BARROW

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Court of Appeal

Law Report November 18 1991

Family Division

Privilege conflict with disclosure

A. T. & T. Istel Ltd and Another v Tully and Others
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Neill and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss
[Judgment November 12]

A condition attached to a disclosure order in a fraud action prohibiting the use of any of the disclosed material in criminal proceedings was not effective to protect defendants who were entitled to invoke the privilege against self-incrimination and could not therefore be used as a substitute for that privilege.

The Court of Appeal so stated dismissing the appeal of A. T. & T. Istel Ltd from Mr Justice Wright who on the application of the defendants, Mr and Mrs Tully, had set aside paragraphs of an injunction granted *ex parte* by Mr Justice Buckley requiring them (a) to disclose all dealings with certain moneys referred to in a schedule and all sums representing or derived from those moneys and (b) to exhibit copies of all documents relating to the receipt or transfer of or dealing with all such assets, in particular such documents as were referred to by a schedule.

The order further provided that disclosure made in compliance with such paragraphs could not be used as evidence in the prosecution of an offence alleged to have been committed by the person required to make the disclosure or any spouse of that person.

Mr Michael Tugendhat, QC and Mr Richard Spearman for the plaintiffs; Mr Jeremy Gibbons for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the second plaintiff company, then controlled by Mr and Mrs Tully, had entered into a contract with a health authority to provide

computer services. The first plaintiff had bought its entire shareholding and subsequently learned of allegations that the contract with the health authority had been operated fraudulently. Although no one had been charged with any offence, the matter was under a major police investigation.

The plaintiffs had contended that the effect of the condition reduced the risk of self-incrimination to such a level that the court could properly ignore it.

However, the judge had set aside the paragraphs of the order with great reluctance on the ground that no civil court could bind a criminal court as to what evidence was admissible in criminal proceedings (see *Rank Film Distributors Ltd v Video Information Centre* [1982] AC 380); and that to make the order in that form would deprive the defendants of an absolute right.

Mr Tugendhat on the appeal had accepted the all-embracing scope of the ancient common law privilege against self-incrimination but, relying on *In re O'Connell* [1991] 2 WLR 475 and *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd* [1991] 2 WLR 994, submitted that the condition was ineffective.

His Lordship recognised the force of that argument, but it could not be accepted by the Court of Appeal, he said.

The making of restraint orders at the request of the prosecutor under section 77 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 was a special case where, although technically civil, the proceedings were intimately bound up with criminal proceedings. The problem of third parties making use of the information would not arise and the disclosed information would be used only in a criminal proceeding and then only if a

conviction had been obtained. The decision in *In re O'Connell* did not avail the plaintiffs unless the operative effect of the condition could be extended to all potential prosecutors by means of the route adopted in *Attorney-General v Times Newspapers Ltd*.

His Lordship did not think that the House of Lords in that case had in mind the special position in the administration of justice of the DPP and the CPS or would have been prepared to extend the effect of the orders of a civil court in such a way as indirectly to bind them in the performance of their duties in relation to the criminal law and before the criminal courts in circumstances where they had not sought and might not have wished for an order for discovery.

If the argument were soundly based it was, moreover, difficult to see why Parliament had needed to enact section 31 of the Theft Act 1968 or section 72 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

Mr Tugendhat had advanced a second argument, that the present claim was proprietary, and the defendants being constructive trustees for the plaintiffs of the moneys claimed, a claim for privilege could not be raised against an order permitting a plaintiff to search and seize his own property, that the same principle should apply to an order for delivery up of such property and that such an order was not for discovery so that the authorities relating to discovery did not apply.

He had asserted that the documents sought by the order were trust documents since they showed the state of the trust, and that beneficiaries of the trust were entitled to production as a matter of property not discovery.

Rejecting that argument, his Lordship considered that the

fallacy which flawed it was in asserting that the relevant paragraphs constituted a proprietary remedy. It was an order calling for information and for copies of documents. That was an order for discovery which the defendants were entitled to disregard in so far as compliance might incriminate them.

His Lordship also rejected Mr Tugendhat's argument that the disclosure sought came within section 72 of the 1981 Act which removed the privilege against self-incrimination in circumstances set out in section 72(2). If section 72 were to avail the plaintiffs they would have to show that they had brought proceedings to obtain disclosure of information relating to an infringement of rights pertaining to commercial information.

In fact they were seeking information relating to alleged breaches of quite different rights, namely to damages for fraud or breach of trust in the respects alleged in the statement of claim.

The Lordship shared Mr Justice Wright's reluctance in setting aside the paragraphs, but that course was inescapable. He again echoed the plea of Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson that Parliament should consider extending the provisions of section 31(1) of the 1968 Act to other offences which might be committed in the course of fraud: see *Sociedade Nacional de Comestiveis de Angola UEE v Lundqvist* [1991] 2 WLR 280, 303 and *Tate Access Floors Inc v Bowell* [1991] 2 WLR 319.

He would dismiss the appeal.

Lord Justice Neill delivered a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Butler-Sloss agreed.

Solicitors: Taylor Joynton Garrett, Dutton Gregory & Williams, Eastleigh.

Poll tax liability of USAF wives

Cherwell District Council and Another v Oxfordshire Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal and Others
Before Mr Justice Hodgson
[Judgment November 8]

A British citizen residing in the United Kingdom, who was married to a United States Air Force member and was therefore dependent upon him, was not exempt from the personal community charge as she did not have a "relevant association" with a visiting force within the meaning of section 12 of the Visiting Forces Act 1952.

Mr Justice Hodgson so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division when allowing the appeal of Cherwell District Council against the decision of the Oxfordshire Valuation and Community Charge Tribunal to allow appeals under section 23 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, of British wives of United States Air Force personnel serving in this country against entries of their names in the register as liable to pay the personal community charge. The tribunal had ordered that the entries be set aside or revoked.

Paragraph 2 of Schedule 1 to the 1988 Act provides: "(1) A person is an exempt individual ... if ... he has a relevant association with a visiting force."

That in the context of the Act seemed to his Lordship to make sense.

The appeal succeeded and the names of the second respondents had to be restored to the register.

It was regrettable that the draftsman was unable or unwilling to provide in simple language in the 1988 Act that United Kingdom citizens residing in the United Kingdom and rejected it as not fit for the purpose for which they had purchased it.

Mr R. K. Miller, QC and Mr Craig Scott for John Thorburn & Sons; Mr Andrew Hardie, QC and Mr Colin Tyre for Border Harvesters Ltd.

LORD MURRAY said that the defendants and respondents had purchased machinery from the pursuers and reclaimers which had performed unsatisfactorily. The defendants had rejected it as not fit for the purpose for which they had purchased it.

The pursuers had raised an action for the price. A proof had been heard, at which counsel for the pursuers in his closing speech had expressly accepted that the burden of proving that the goods were fit for their purpose lay upon the pursuers.

The Lord Ordinary had

concept was used to describe certain victims of offences committed by members of visiting forces. In section 7(1) the certain dead persons upon whose bodies a coroner was prohibited from holding an inquest. Persons having a relevant association were defined in section 12(2), (3) and (4).

The debate had been as to the meaning of section 12(2)(b), in particular the somewhat peculiarly drafted exception clause "not being a citizen of the United Kingdom or Colonies or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom, but being a dependent."

In section 12(2) persons were divided into two: members in (a) and dependants in (b). It was the dependants who were not victims or potential corpses who had to pay the tax.

The construction of section 12(2)(b) was not its natural meaning seemed to his Lordship to demand that the words "not being" controlled both the phrases "a citizen of the United Kingdom" and "ordinarily resident" so that its meaning became clear if one inserted "not being" a second time: "... a person not being a citizen ... or (not being) ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom but being a dependent."

The "but" clearly required the "not being" to be applied to "ordinarily resident."

That in the context of the Act seemed to his Lordship to make sense.

The appeal succeeded and the names of the second respondents had to be restored to the register.

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Tenancy made despite uncertainty in term

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce v Bello and Others
Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment November 8]

An arrangement whereby a builder, who had completed the renovation of a property, was permitted to take over the property and use it as he liked until the owner of the property paid for the works, created a tenancy in favour of the builder despite the element of uncertainty in the term.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by the builder, Richard J. Morgan, from an order for possession of a house at 85 Ashburnham Road, Kensal Rise, Willesden, London, made, in proceedings by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce against Mr Morgan, L. Rusoff and Kadja Vike by Judge Paul Baker, QC sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, on June 27.

Mr James Dingemans for Mr Morgan; Miss Mary Cook for the bank.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that the bank had a charging order on the house in respect of indebtedness by Mr Bello and wished to sell it. The question was whether Mr Morgan had an overriding interest under the Land Registration Act 1925. One issue was whether Mr Morgan had a tenancy of the house.

Mr Morgan had agreed to carry out refurbishment works and had begun to do so. After promises of progress payments had not been met, he had been told by Mr Bello's agent that he "could take over the property and use it as he liked until (Mr Bello) had ... paid me in full for my works".

The arrangement so made could thus be terminated either by Mr Morgan if, having moved

in, he wished at any point to leave, or by Mr Bello if he paid for the works.

Mr Morgan had completed the renovation, furnished the property, moved in in August 1988, and lived there ever since. He had not seen Mr Bello or the agent since June 1988.

The judge said that there was "certainly not a tenancy as there is no term certain", but he was referred to *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v London Residuals Ltd* [1988] 1 AC 381, where Lord Goff said that a tenancy could be created by a contract for a term of years, even if the term was uncertain.

His Lordship would have regarded the arrangement as a mere contractual licence to occupy the land and not a tenancy.

In *Prudential Assurance Co Ltd v London Residuals Ltd* [1988] 1 AC 381, the Court of Appeal had found difficulty in reconciling *Ashburn v Lave v Chandler* [1984] KB 629, where it was held that a purported tenancy for the duration of the war was not a tenancy, because of the uncertainty of the term.

However, the court had found a ground of distinction, albeit one which it stated to be not satisfactory, between *Ashburn* and *Prudential*, in that in the former, unlike the latter, the term could be brought to an end by the tenant at any time and by the landlord on the occurrence of an event that was within the control of the tenant.

Since it was not possible to distinguish the arrangement in the present case from that in *Ashburn*, the court regarded the purported tenancy as a mere contractual licence to occupy the land and not a tenancy.

Lord Justice Staughton delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Rowe & Maw for M. R. Stephenson, Bedford; Allen & Overly.

Public wardship jurisdiction ends

In re C (a Minor)
Before Sir Stephen Brown, President
[Judgment November 7]

Since the Children Act 1989 came into force on October 14, 1991 the High Court ceased to have jurisdiction over wards of court who had been committed to the care of a local authority under section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969. By virtue of section 31 of the 1989 Act the minors were in the care of the local authority.

The effect of paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 14 to the Act meant that any application relating to former wards should be made to the family proceedings court.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, so stated when giving judgment in open court following a hearing in chambers of a mother's application for a defined access order to her son, a ward of court who had been committed to the care of a local authority under section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969.

Section 100 of the 1989 Act provides: "(1) Section 7 of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 (which gives the High Court jurisdiction in relation to wards of court, or under the supervision, of a local authority) shall cease to have effect."

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 14 to the 1989 Act provides: "(1) Section 16 to the Courts and Legal Services

Act 1990, the Children Act 1989 (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order (SI 1991 No 228) and the Children Act 1989 (Commencement Order No 2 - Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Order (SI 1991 No 1990), provides:

"(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (4), nothing in any provision of this Act (other than the repeals mentioned in sub-paragraph (2)) shall affect any proceedings which are pending immediately before the commencement of that provision."

Paragraph 15 of Schedule 14 provides: "(1) Sub-paragraph (4) applies where immediately before the day on which Part IV comes into force, a person was ... (e) in care by virtue of an order ... (ii) section 7(2) of the Family Law Reform Act 1969 ..."

"(2) Where this sub-paragraph applies, then on and after the day on which Part IV commences ... (a) the order or resolution in question shall be deemed to be a care order ... and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly, subject to paragraph 16 ..."

Paragraph 16 of Schedule 14 provides: "(5) ... where a court, on making the order, or at any time thereafter, gave directions ... (c) in the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction with respect to children, as to the exercise by the authority of any powers, those directions

shall ... continue to have effect (regardless of any conflicting provision in this Act other than section 25) [secure accommodation] until varied or discharged by a court under this sub-paragraph."

Mr Ian Karsen, QC, for the guardian *ad litem*, counsel solicitor for the local authority, which by order of the President cannot be identified; Mrs Rozanna Malcolm for the mother.

THE PRESIDENT said that the application before the court had been purported to be made in wardship proceedings. On September 2, 1991 the mother had issued a summons seeking defined access to her son who defined access to the care of the local authority under section 7(2) of the 1969 Act.

In October 1989 Mr Justice Ewbank had given the local authority leave to place the minor with the term foster parents with a view to adoption but had ordered that the mother could continue to have access at the discretion of the local authority.

The court had to consider the effect of the 1989 Act on the order. Under section 100 of that Act section 7 of the 1969 Act ceased to have effect.

Section 91(4) of the 1989 Act brought wardship proceedings to an end in the public domain. There could still be private wardship proceedings.

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"(2) Where this sub-paragraph applies, then on and after the day on which Part IV commences ... (a) the order or resolution in question shall be deemed to be a care order ... and the provisions of this Act shall apply accordingly, subject to paragraph 16 ..."

Paragraph 16 of Schedule 14 provides: "(5) ... where a court, on making the order, or at any time thereafter, gave directions ... (c) in the exercise of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction with respect to children, as to the exercise by the authority of any powers, those directions

shall ... continue to have effect (regardless of any conflicting provision in this Act other

NOTICEBOARD

Early start for college

SOME children will get a glimpse of university life while at primary school under a scheme for schools with no tradition of sending pupils into higher education. The scheme, HiPact, with company sponsorship, will link the schools with universities and polytechnics. Students from University College London are already tutoring primary pupils under the scheme, partly to provide role models.

Left out?

RESEARCHERS are to study 800 children in an effort to discover whether left-handers are suffering silently in schools geared to a right-handed world. The project aims to establish the proportion of left-handers among children aged seven to 11 and reveal any links with learning problems such as dyslexia. Diane Paul, the project coordinator, says left-handed children are a "neglected minority" but stresses they also have special talents, pointing to a right-handed Leonardo da Vinci, Paul McCartney, Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso. "Left-handers use the right side of their brain, which makes them more creative," says Ms Paul, who is left-handed.

Debt-busters

A PACKAGE to teach young people aged 14 to 16 to manage their money was launched last week amid teasing claims that some teenagers are incurring large debts. Credit Action, which aims to help people to stay out of debt, says some 18-year-olds and 19-year-olds have run up debts of £20,000.

Flying lessons

BUSINESSMEN using All Nippon Airways can learn English in the Classroom of the Sky provided by the airline. On a 12-hour journey the recorded lessons accompanied by a text book should give the diligent pupil at least a working knowledge of the language.

DAVID TYTLER



Poll academics go pop



Talking heads: political pundit Dr David Butler, left, of Oxford University, became almost as familiar a figure on television panels during the run-up to the last general election as anchorman Sir Alastair Burnet and David Dimbleby, right. Other academics of an equally high public profile will be seen on our screens this election



Britain's best known academics are set to be prize-winners, vice-chancellors or heads of Oxford and Cambridge colleges. They are the talking heads who fill the nation's television screens, especially at election time.

Ever since the late Robert McKenzie, brought his swingometer from the London School of Economics to captivate viewers, the political pundits have been the celebrities of the academic world. Dr David Butler, of Oxford University, was already a familiar figure, while Professor Ivor Crewe and Professor Tony King, of Essex University, now have an equally high public profile. The media have come to rely increasingly on universities and polytechnics for analysis and prediction.

As surrounding political events, the general election approaches, the politics departments will be scoured for new faces to add an extra dimension to news coverage. Television companies are coy about their election plans. The stakes are high for both academics and broadcasters, as *Newsnight's* predictions at the last election showed. John Curd, of Strathclyde University, and Dr Pippa Norris, of Edinburgh University, two leading electoral researchers, had to rescue their reputations when their sample of marginal constituencies underestimated the scale of the Conservatives' 1987 victory.

Both succeeded. Strathclyde's department of government, has been commissioned by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) to study the next election in Scotland, and Dr Norris has continued to attract attention with research on the selection of parliamentary candidates and the barriers to women becoming MPs.

The rewards for successful punditry can be great for individuals and their institutions. Although the link cannot be quantified, few at Essex doubt that national exposure for Professors Crewe and King results in extra applications for places in various parts of the university.

Professor Crewe, who also writes for *The Times*, says: "We do get school-leavers applying to do a politics degree as a result, as far as we can make out, of seeing that Tony King and I are at Essex. It is difficult to say how important that is because the university does



Pundit: Professor Tony King

well-known in other political areas. Professor William Miller, of Glasgow University, led a team of academics analysing voting shifts at the last election and has since examined the influence of the media in 1987, but he has moved on to a study of civil liberties and human rights.

The high profile of the election specialists has never quite been

As an election approaches, experts from the universities will be sought to predict the parties' fortunes. John O'Leary reviews the record and the role of the media pundits

actually provide a good politics course.

Other institutions have also reaped the benefits of publicity. At Polytechnic South West, in Plymouth, for example, the monitoring of local election results by Dr Colin Rallings and Dr Michael Thrasher created welcome national interest at a time when a change of name had caused applications to fall.

The Plymouth team, who now write for *The Sunday Times* and work individually for ITN and Sky Television, ploughed a new furrow in showing that local election

growing circle of academics used regularly by the media. Dr Butler, who has analysed elections for 40 years from Nuffield College, Oxford, says: "At first, I was foremost in a field of one, but now there are lots of people who write more interesting stuff than I do. Most of them were my students."

Most of the new breed do not expect to become election specialists in the Butler mould, although few will spurn media approaches in the spring. Professor Richard Rose, at Strathclyde University, for example, has produced a series of election studies, but is equally



Pundit: Professor Ivor Crewe

matched by academic esteem in a subject traditionally dominated by political theorists. Although a co-author of election studies with Dr Butler, Dennis Kavanagh, a Nottingham University professor and member of the ESRC, says: "Elections are the most over-studied, over-analysed and over-televised part of the political system. The ESRC has funded some very valuable work, but students during the past 20 years have not been that interested in voting studies. They are highly statistical and very time-consuming, but the eyes of the nation are concentrated on elections, and the public would ask what political scientists are studying if they are not studying this."

The influence on voters, rather than the electoral process itself, causes most interest and controversy among academics. The

econometric model of voting behaviour developed by Dr David Sanders and colleagues at Essex University has remained particularly contentious since it first questioned the extent to which the Falklands war influenced the outcome of the 1983 general election. Other academics have accused the team of being unscholarly and justifying their results through hindsight, but the criticisms have not stopped both Labour and the Conservatives from commissioning presentations by Dr Sanders this month.

His model assumes that voters determine the economy's choices, and it includes indicators that many critics consider unlikely to influence public opinion. "I do not actually claim scientific justification for my work, and I would not disagree that we are over-precise with our forecasts," Dr Sanders says, "but our critics are not prepared to put their reputations where their mouths are, whereas I have because I think it is a logical extension of my work."

The latest prediction is a Conservative recovery to a 43 per cent rating by May, enough for another term in government with a reduced majority. The model will soon be tested, but Professor Crewe doubts whether the academic pundits will influence the election results. "I honestly do not think anything people like us say makes very much difference to voters. What we say is usually very obvious."

I honestly do not think anything people like us say makes very much difference to voters
Political pundit Professor Ivor Crewe of Essex University

results accurately indicate national trends. They forecast the likely swings in the three recent by-elections, for example. Now they are making the transition to national politics with a contract to continue a long-established series of general election studies.

The two researchers are among the few from outside the universities to break into a slowly

well-known in other political areas. Professor William Miller, of Glasgow University, led a team of academics analysing voting shifts at the last election and has since examined the influence of the media in 1987, but he has moved on to a study of civil liberties and human rights.

The high profile of the election specialists has never quite been

We all have a chance in the education race

A new project helps pupils and teachers assess and analyse their strengths and the suitable areas for improvement

When I started school, I did not know any English and could not read. Now I can speak English well and can long books. These are the words of ten-year-old Ali, who was not just writing a profile of himself for a classroom exercise, but was also recording his achievements for a transfer document, being piloted by Birmingham local education authority for pupils leaving primary school.

The document recorded more than academic progress. Ali was also encouraged by his teacher to put down his interests and accomplishments. "I in out-of-school activities. I look after little children in my cousin's house," Ali wrote. "I like working alone on my table and I can work with girls."

In the same document, his teacher endorsed the academic standards he had reached in school, his sense of responsibility to other children, his ability to cooperate in groups and his preference for working alone.

A separate sheet gave his parents views of his achievements, and charts specific information on the levels he had reached in mathematics and other core curriculum subjects.

In this way, a complete picture of Ali's accomplishments and potential was painted for his secondary school, without a false division between traditional school subjects and the social and practical skills he will need.

Ali attends one of more than 100 schools, primary and secondary, from Swindon to Birmingham, West Sussex to Birmingham, that have taken part in the Education for Capability campaign, which the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce (RSA) has organised since 1979.

The Effective Learning in Schools project helps pupils to analyse their strengths and find areas for improvement. Questions on a record of achievement, such as "What good ideas did I have about



The college saw the relevance of Benjamin's interest in motor racing to the degree programme

how to solve problems", can elicit more informative answers for the reader than comments on old-style reports such as "History - fair".

The campaign has been equally active in furthering higher education. The emphasis, as in schools, is on recognising all students' abilities, including doing, making, organising, in the process of learning and training them to be effective in all they do.

The example of Mike, a tutor in engineering at a further education college, is given in the final report of the further education part of the campaign.

"His enthusiasm for his subject is self-evident and infectious," the report says, "but significantly in terms of about courses in terms of content and qualification. Technically, Mike is a lecturer but he is first and foremost a manager of learning."

More than 400 examples of the capability approach are now recorded on a database for others to see. One is of Benjamin, who was refused entry to tra-

ditional engineering courses because he lacked A-levels. The college that took him saw the relevance of his motor racing interest to the degree programme he wanted to study, combining mechanics, management and psychology. He worked with engineering designers in a leading company and gained a first-class degree.

Professor Charles Handy, visiting professor at the London Business School, spoke of his admiration for the campaign at a conference held to mark its achievements. He told educationists and industrialists that without it the 1988 Education Reform Act would never have said that education was to prepare pupils for the "opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life".

Professor Tyrrell Burgess, of the Polytechnic of East London, said the campaign was not an anti-intellectual movement. "We celebrate pluralism," he said. "We believe society is best served by developing the individual capacities of people."

The RSA's pump-priming role is now completed. Its role, as an independent organisation, says Professor Handy, a former RSA chairman, is "to pick up, clarify and spread new ideas but not to possess them". The RSA Higher Education Project for Capability Education will continue at Leeds University and Leeds Polytechnic.

The innovative Home-School Contract of Partnership, sponsored by the European Community and the National Association of Head Teachers, which involves parents in their children's progress, has another year to run.

As for the future of the idea of Education for Capability, Professor Handy has drawn up a full agenda. He says: "What we need now is patient and penetrating application of the idea in the curriculum, in our approach to teaching, in learning and methods of assessment, and in the management and funding of education at all levels."

SARAH CURTIS

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LECTURESHIPS



Barnes the killjoy as London Irish seek new horizons

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

They led last season's league champions for much of the middle period before succumbing by a goal, two tries and four penalty goals to a goal, three penalties and a dropped goal, and the element of control and precision which

Given time to settle (and Hook made the point that such players as Pegler and Egan, the influential No. 8, were playing only their third

Mullen, an influential figure in the first half, peppered the posts with nine assorted kicks of which five succeeded as the Irish led 18-13 at the interval. Curtis scored their try, an indication of their willingness to play positive rugby and how lethal they can be on the counter but Bath's experience is priceless.

World

Wasps 20
Harlequins

By **BRYAN STILES**

By **BRYAN STILES**

As the players left the field they were swamped by autograph hunters, with Rob Andrew, the Wasps and England stand-off, having to be rescued after almost ten minutes.

On one such sortie, in the 38th minute, he attracted the attention of two tacklers and emerged with a badly cut leg.

splendid try in the thirteen minute, when the ball was quickly moved to him after series of rucks near the Quins

HARLEQUINS: D. Peers; A. Hazzard, Carling (rep: B. Short), S. Halliday, Molyneux; K. Bray, R. Glenister, J. Leonard, Kilick, A. Mullin, M. Russell, N. Edwards, Shortland, P. J. Whitebottom, R. Langhorn. Referee: M. Dune (France).

Not that there was any doubt about the outcome. To coin a phrase used by medical men from the southern hemisphere during the World Cup

... ..

Steele's two penalties added to their advantage, Saracens' points coming from a try by

the early prop. was added to the line for a late score. Liley could kick only one penalty in response.

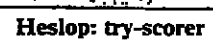
By PETER BILLS

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

second phase ball, and the fact that Thomas missed five pen-



Heslop: try-scorer



Deane, R. Stafford, D. Brooks.
ORRELL: S. Taberner; N. Haslop, S.
Langford, M. Fielden, P. Halsall; M. Street, D.
Morris, M. Hynes, N. Hitchin, S. Southern, D.
Cleary, R. Kimmins, C. Cusani, N. Ashurst, F.
Manley.
Referee: A. Sparks (RFU)

lack of cohesion and paper thin defence, often exploited by the pacy Knibbs and Davis in the bustling Bristol scrum half. The pairing of Painter and Davis was their ninth of the winter; it functioned impressively, but was seldom

Bristol changed down a gear for much of the second half

(3). **Penalty goals:** Painter (2).
NOTTINGHAM: W Kilford, K Stiles, Webster, S Potter, C Jones, A Sutton, Wright, A Shepherd, J Hudson, D Ward, Cook, B Langley, D Hindmarch, G Fless, J Greenwood.
BRISTOL: H Duggan, K Morgan (rep: Kitchin), R Knowles, J Redrup, P Hull, Painter, J Davis, D Hickey, D Palmer, T Hinkins, P Collins, P Siff, A Blackmore, Eves, C Barrow.

stand-off, had an unforgettable afternoon with the boot.

Tony Turner's refereeing at times, though, left much to be desired; both his decisions and lack of communication with

death dis

RESULTS

[illegible]

Favourites take the world team squash championship

Australians have too much experience for England

From COLIN MCQUILLAN
IN HELSINKI

ENGLAND'S young professionals yesterday finished with the silver medal from the world team squash championships, beaten 3-0 in the final here by the skill, experience and sheer competitive determination of the top-seeded Australians.

"It would have taken two of our boys playing the squash matches of their lives here to take the title," Jonathan Barrington, the team coach, said. "They played well but not that well. These players have the potential to win a world championship but they should look at what happened to them here and understand what needs to be done for them to reach such levels of play."

Even without their top player, Rodney Martin, the world champion, the four-man Australian squad brought more professional expertise to the Esport Centre in Espoo than any three other teams together.

Chris Dittmar, the first string, aged 26, and ranked fourth in the world, began playing squash aged three in Adelaide and turned pro-

fessional at 16. Chris Robertson, the 26-year-old second string, won his first world title in the junior championship of 1984 and now ranks fifth in the world. Brett Martin, who until now has been slightly over-shadowed as the older brother of the world champion, is sixth and Rodney Eyles, yesterday's redundant fourth string, is ninth.

The second-seeded Pakistanis were led here by the world No. 1, Jansher Khan, but left their subsidiary strength watching impotently from various parts of the world while the ageing Maqsood Ahmed, the useless



Dittmar: led the winners

but essentially unnamed Ahsan Ullah, and Umar Zaman, the younger brother of the national coach, managed only one match win in a week of play.

Only Scotland's questionable decision to select their own renowned runner, Alan Thomson against Ullah — a man who earns a precarious living feeding the ball endlessly to Pakistani professionals when they go home to Peshawar — allowed Pakistan to remain in the first division. Yesterday they went down 3-0 to Sweden in the play-off for seventh place, with Jansher losing 10-9, 6-9, 2-9, 9-4 to Fredrik Johnson, the world No. 42.

Scotland's own fortunes plummeted after choosing Thomson rather than their more inventive teenage fourth string, Peter Nicol, against Ullah. Yesterday they included Nicol to defeat Ireland for 11th place.

It was left to England, the third seeds, to mount the only serious challenge against Australia. In Saturday's final, England and Australia were virtually stepped aside but the home country duly took their first bronze medal in the history of the championship.

defeating Egypt 3-0 in front of a packed audience early yesterday morning.

The final was almost an anti-climax locally, although the Australian players were pleased enough with the result to announce that they would press their national governing body to employ the team manager, Ken Hiscoe, on a full-time basis. Dittmar thought the final was not much of a spectacle, although Finland can rarely have witnessed such economy of movement as his, such front court invention as Martin's or such mobility as Robertson's.

Martin had set the tone with a 34-minute 9-1, 9-6, 9-2 win over Chris Walker, whose Essex team-mate, Del Harris, went down 9-2, 9-2, 9-4 in 54 minutes to Dittmar. Robertson won the dead rubber, 9-5, 9-3, 9-4 in 70 minutes over Peter Marshall.

RESULTS: Semi-finals: England 3, Egypt 0. (D Harris 9-2, 9-6, 9-2; J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; Ahsan Ullah 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2). Final: Australia 3, England 0. (J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; Ahsan Ullah 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2). Play-off for seventh place: Scotland 3, Ireland 0. (M Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; Ahsan Ullah 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2). Play-off for 11th place: England 3, Ireland 0. (M Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; Ahsan Ullah 9-1, 9-6, 9-2; J Nicol 9-1, 9-6, 9-2).



Kings Fountain jumps the sixth fence ahead of Ardrin, right, and Anti Matter on his way to a resounding success in Saturday's H & T Walker Gold Cup at Ascot. Far Senior finished second to give Kim Bailey a memorable one-two

Fitzgerald plots double raid

By CHRISTOPHER GOULDING

JIMMY Fitzgerald, who trained Galway Blaze to land a substantial gamble in the 1985 Hennessy Gold Cup, will send Phoenix Gold and Gold Options to Newbury in the attempt to land the coveted handicap chase for a second time on Saturday.

"They are both in excellent form and have a good chance," the Malton trainer said. "But as far as riding plans are concerned, I will leave it up to Mark [Dwyer] and Peter Scudamore, if he is not claimed by Martin Pipe, to sort things out."

At Uttoxeter earlier in the month, both horses acquired themselves well on their seasonal debuts in the same race. Dwyer elected to partner Phoenix Gold, who got the better of Scudamore on Gold Options. On Saturday they meet on almost identical terms.

Fitzgerald, who has a close link with the Hennessy, having ridden Brasher to finish third behind the immortal

Arkle in 1965, would not be drawn into comparisons.

"I have got my own owners to live with," Fitzgerald said. "Phoenix Gold has been a frustrating horse and has a wild character. Comparing him to Galway Blaze, he would have a lot more speed."

"But there must be a doubt about his stamina as the furthest he has won over is two-and-a-half miles. The same can also be said about Gold Options, who has yet to win over the Hennessy trip of three miles and two furlongs."

Stamina is not a problem, though, for Docklands Express. Kim Bailey's runner has been supported with William Hill from 10-1 a week ago to 5-1 joint favourite with Arctic Call, last year's winner.

Bailey, now regarded as one of the master trainers of the steeplechase, was in splendid form at Ascot on Saturday when Kings Fountain and Far Senior finished first and second in H & T Walker Gold Cup.

"I hatched the plan to run

Kings Fountain in the H & T

at Christmas," explained a visibly shaking and delighted Bailey. "He's an improving horse with a future and I have a certain race at Cheltenham in March in mind for him."

Prior to the imposing gelding's 15-length victory over his stable companion, William Hill had laid the eight-year-old from 25-1 to 16-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

The future for Far Senior is a matter of years rather than months. The five-year-old, owned by Mrs Lois Duffley, will attempt to follow in the hoofprints of her Grand National winner, Mr Frisk.

Toby Balding, who completed a double at Ascot with La Cienega and Romney King, could be doubly represented in the Hennessy.

"Boracova will definitely take his chance," said Balding. "But the participation of Cool Ground will depend on the going. If it comes up soft he will also run."

Cool Ground, who showed great improvement last season

to win the Welsh National and finish fourth behind Garrison Savannah in the Cheltenham Gold Cup, is again being prepared for the Cheltenham race.

Master Bob, runner-up to Arctic Call in the Hennessy last year, was confirmed a definite Newbury runner by Nicky Henderson. The enigmatic 11-year-old recently showed his well-being when second to Ace Of Spies at Cheltenham.

Henderson also outlined plans for two of last season's leading novice chasers, Sparkling Flame and Remittance Man. Sparkling Flame will go to Kempton on Wednesday for the Boxing Day Trial Chase and Remittance Man will run at Newbury on Friday, Henderson said.

Remittance Man, the 11-year-old, has recovered well from a stress operation and has recently indicated his fitness with some fine leaps on the schooling grounds.

Michael Morris, who sent Caberfawh over from Ireland to finish third to Arctic Call in last year's Hennessy, confirmed Rawhide as a definite runner. "He is not badly handicapped on his running at Cheltenham when five lengths behind Rolling Ball in the Sun Alliance," said Morris. "I'm hoping Charlie Swan will be fit to ride."

Swan, currently nursing a damaged hand, is expected back on Wednesday, but if he has not recovered in time, Kevin O'Brien will ride.

Clara Jones, the Lambourn permit holder, saddled only his second winner in five seasons when Light Vener landed a gamble from 20-1 to 9-2 joint favourite at Warwick on Saturday.

CRICKET

Marsh in total command

Perth — Geoff Marsh, the Australian opening batsman, scored a century as he led an invincible side, including Dennis Lillee, to victory by 29 runs over the Indian touring team here yesterday.

Marsh took full advantage of a largely inexperienced attack to score 106 runs in 161 minutes as the Australian Cricket Board Chairman's XI reached 254 for six in their 50 overs.

The Indians, three days after the end of their brief international series with South Africa, replied with 225 for seven. (Reuters)

| | |
|--|-----|
| ACB Chairman's XI | 100 |
| G Marsh 106, S Marsh 50, M Marsh 40, D Marsh 30, J Marsh 20, K Marsh 10, L Marsh 5, P Marsh 5, R Marsh 5, S Marsh 5, T Marsh 5, U Marsh 5, V Marsh 5, W Marsh 5, X Marsh 5, Y Marsh 5, Z Marsh 5 | 254 |
| INDIANS | 225 |
| R Shastri 106, S Shastri 50, M Shastri 40, D Shastri 30, J Shastri 20, K Shastri 10, L Shastri 5, P Shastri 5, R Shastri 5, S Shastri 5, T Shastri 5, U Shastri 5, V Shastri 5, W Shastri 5, X Shastri 5, Y Shastri 5, Z Shastri 5 | 225 |

| | |
|--|-----|
| FALL OF WICKETS: 1-31, 2-47, 3-59, 4-74, 5-91, 6-106, 7-121, 8-136, 9-151, 10-166, 11-181, 12-196, 13-211, 14-226, 15-241, 16-254 | 254 |
| BOWLING: Kapil Dev 10-35, 1-1; Sunil Gavaskar 10-35, 1-1; Sachin Tendulkar 10-35, 1-1; Vengal Rao 10-35, 1-1; Dinesh Karthik 10-35, 1-1; Rahul Dravid 10-35, 1-1; Anil Kumble 10-35, 1-1; Javahar Sood 10-35, 1-1; Madan Lal 10-35, 1-1; Bishan Singh 10-35, 1-1; Kapil Dev 10-35, 1-1 | 225 |

GOLF

Mackay happy in his second home

From PATRICIA DAVIES IN TOKYO

IT IS not really too far from Perth, western Australia, to Japan (about ten hours as the jumbo flies) and Roger Mackay, who lives in the former, is quite at home in the latter, as he proved again by winning the \$60,000 Visa Taiheiyō Masters at Gotemba, south of Tokyo, yesterday.

Mackay has been playing on the Japanese tour for three years now and a final round of 68, four-under-par, gave him his third win of the season. He finished with a total of 272, two strokes ahead of Yoshinori Kaneko, who sneaked in front of his more illustrious compatriot Tommy Nakajima, who was in turn two ahead of Jose Maria Olazabal. The Spaniard, who finished with a 69, made a commendable defence of his title considering his physical condition.

Accupuncturist treatment during the week had helped ease the pain of his sore neck considerably and he had six birdies yesterday but remained undecided about playing in the Dunlop Phoenix event, which starts on Thursday in Miyazaki.

Nick Faldo, who nearly came good at the end, with a 68 spoiled by bogeys at the 16th and 17th — three putts each time — has a television challenge match in Tokyo to occupy him today.

John Daly, the US PGA

champion, is one of the participants and Faldo must be wincing at the thought of the American's backswing. Like most players, the former Open and Masters champion, can get nowhere near the Daly position at the top of the swing.

Mackay, not exactly an orthodox swinger himself, was mightily effective, especially on the greens, and he had overtaken Nakajima, who was a stroke ahead before he started, by the fifth, where the Australian holed from 18 feet for his third birdie.

He was never headed after that, with Nakajima subsequently attributing his fairly ordinary 72 to the absence of his wife, a pair of bent glasses (he sat on them on Saturday) and poor driving.

Whatever the reason, he missed a two-foot putt to bogey the 13th and found himself three shots behind Mackay, who had had birdies at the 11th and 12th. Even worse, Kaneko birdied three of the last six holes, to finish runner-up.

LEADING FINALISTS (Japanese unless stated): 272: R Mackay (Aus), 72: 68; 273: J Faldo (Eng), 72: 69; 274: Y Kaneko (Jpn), 72: 70; 275: T Nakajima (Jpn), 72: 71; 276: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 72; 277: J Olazabal (Esp), 72: 73; 278: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 74; 279: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 75; 280: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 76; 281: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 77; 282: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 78; 283: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 79; 284: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 80; 285: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 81; 286: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 82; 287: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 83; 288: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 84; 289: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 85; 290: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 86; 291: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 87; 292: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 88; 293: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 89; 294: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 90; 295: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 91; 296: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 92; 297: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 93; 298: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 94; 299: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 95; 300: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 96; 301: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 97; 302: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 98; 303: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 99; 304: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 100; 305: S Faldo (Eng), 72: 101; 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Heath tosses away opportunity to split open United

United were also found to be wanting again in that

the United goal, was not hit firmly enough and Pallister cleared his lines.

"For the last ten years we've been trying to kick each other," Reid said beforehand. "He's always been too quick for me and I've always been too smart for him. I just hope he's slowing up and I am just as smart as I was."

No holding back: Nigel Worthington, of Sheffield Wednesday, evades a sliding tackle by Jamie Hoyland, of Sheffield United, during the first division derby at Bramall Lane yesterday. United won 2-0. Report, page 38

Spitting image does Arsenal no good

unjust. "I feel the protest was quite disgraceful because it had nothing whatsoever to do with Liverpool Football Club," he said. "We have been cautioned and disciplined for something that was out of our control. It is difficult to stop people encroaching in this manner unless we take a decision to rebuild the fences at Anfield. This is something which we simply cannot consider after the lessons of the Hillsborough disaster."

As he left the field, Granada's TV cameras showed him spitting at a supporter and grabbing a policeman who moved to restrain him. Only the intervention of David Seaman prevented a possibly serious incident developing.

The police reported the incident to George Graham, but are not intending to take it further, which means that Wright is unlikely to face disrepute charges from the Football Association. Arsenal, however, may feel bound to take action themselves in the light of their recent problems.

The club was fined two years ago for a brawl with Manchester United, and last year their captain, Tony Adams, was fined for making obscene gestures at the Queen's Park Rangers crowd.

When Barlow popped up from nowhere to score his first first division goal, it seemed as if Arsenal's troubled month was getting worse. It did, but not in the way expected.

Tottenham Hotspur also had to come from behind when Luton Town took the lead at White Hart Lane, and act so out of character that the lights went out in surprise. When they came back on after an interruption of 14 minutes, normality was restored, Gary Lineker scoring twice to raise his yen value still further, and Scott Houghton also claimed a brace. With Sheffield United winning again, the result left Luton bottom.

While Japan and Alex Ferguson are being linked with Lineker, the two clubs pursuing Mo Johnston, Aston Villa

and Everton, both secured home wins over strugglers. At Villa Park, where the manager, Ron Atkinson and Neil Warnock, had a heated touchline exchange, Dwight Yorke's goal sent Nottingham's home pointless, while a twice-taken penalty by Tony Cottrell and a goal-by Dave Watson left Wimbledon still seeking their first win under Peter Withe.

Goals by Mel Sterland and Rodney Wallace in three minutes around the hour ended Queen's Park Rangers' resistance at Elland Road to send Leeds United back to the top of the first division.

Derby County, the winners from Darnley Powell, of Purtsmouth, in the 3-2 win at Swindon Town, earned his club the Barclay's performance-of-the-week award.

Lineker's club, Tottenham Hotspur, has received an approach from Japan for the

A Swansea police chief superintendent wants the Auto Glass Trophy match between Swansea City and Cardiff City on Tuesday called off, after more than 500 supporters ran riot in the city on Saturday following Swansea's 2-1 FA Cup defeat of their neighbours.

Thirty-nine arrests were made among supporters left a trail of destruction in some of the worst scenes at Swansea for years.

Chief Superintendent Mel Poole blamed Cardiff supporters for the violence. "It was sheer gratuitous violence," he said. "They were sub-human. My experienced officers have never seen anything like it in 30 years."

He is recommending to his chief constable that Tuesday's tie should be postponed and there will be a meeting between the clubs and police tomorrow morning.

[illegible]

Football is winner after treat at Upton Park

Television given a reminder of traditional virtues

West Ham United 0
Liverpool 0

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE first division, hurtling at high speed towards a black hole of mediocrity, was yesterday reminded of more traditional virtues. Conveniently, the television cameras were stationed at Upton Park to beam to a wider audience the quality which has so seldom been seen even amid the England side this season.

West Ham United and Liverpool have resisted the temptation to bypass midfield and indulge in the physical warfare practiced by so many other teams. Maintaining the standards set long ago at both clubs, they still prefer to use speed of thought and movement, combined with precise control, to unhinge their opponents.

The applause that filled West Ham's compact arena in London's East End at the completion of arguably the season's finest fixture was a testament to the entertainment provided for a crowd of 23,569. Even in the absence of a goal, nobody, for once, could

complain about the fare. "Football was the winner," Billy Bonds, the West Ham manager, said. "The ball never stopped moving. Even when there was a foul, the free kick was taken quickly."

"Although the players found it tiring, it was a great game. The fact that it was on television and seen by millions of people was more important than winning."

His counterpart, Graeme Souness, was no less fulsome in his praise. "It was open, attractive and played in the right spirit," he said. "Since the long ball seems to be such a popular fashion these days, this was a good advertisement for the way that I think the game should be played."

West Ham, though still lying in the lower reaches of the first division, extended their unbeaten sequence to seven matches and the return of Ron Greenwood, their knowledgeable former manager who is now acting as a consultant, cannot be mere coincidence. Their current style is reminiscent of the days when he himself was in charge.

The partnership of Gale and Potts at the heart of their defence and the re-emergence

of Keen, as well as the goal-scoring ability of Small, who was appearing ten days after a cartilage operation, are other factors in their recovery. But for the contribution of Grobbelaar, a typical mixture of the brilliant and the bizarre, they might have added to their list of recent victims which have included Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

Saves from McAvennie, Small and Keen in the first half and from Gale in the second earned Grobbelaar a magnum of champagne as the man of the match. A month ago, it was thought that his protracted stay at Anfield might be about to end, but his replacement, Hooper, has been unavailable and he has re-established himself.

Souness paid tribute to his goalkeeper after the game: "He deserved the award and made only one mistake when he sauntered almost into their half," he said.

Grobbelaar's embarrassment would have been more profound if Small, standing on the edge of the area, had been able to turn into the unguarded net. Keen's speculative drive from some 40 yards.

Miklosko distinguished himself by blocking attempts from Walters before the interval and from Molby after it. Yet he was fortunate that a menacing cross from Burrows eluded the outstretched foot of McManaman, the youngster who was preferred to Britain's most expensive player.

The future of Saunders, who was dropped for Liverpool's stirring victory over Auxerre in the UEFA Cup, was believed to be in doubt. Souness, in spite of omitting him for the first time in the League, insisted that no inquiries have been made for the forward bought during the summer for £2.9 million. Nor, apparently, are there any plans to sell him.

The Liverpool manager accepts that Saunders has suffered from the lack of continuity caused by "horrendous" injuries. The misfortune may soon end. Mark Wright will be in action again this week and Barnes, who is back in training, may return before Christmas. Whelan will be examined by a specialist in a few days.

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Other football, page 36



Rough and tumble: McMahon, of Liverpool, tangles with Bishop, of West Ham, in the teams' exciting encounter at Upton Park yesterday

United have best of Sheffield derby

Sheffield United 2
Sheffield Wednesday 0

By CLIVE WHITE

TWO calamitous defensive mistakes, including one by Chris Woods, the England goalkeeper, may have handed United an unexpected victory in the Sheffield derby at Bramall Lane yesterday but it was no more than the home team deserved. Indeed, Wednesday were fortunate not to have been beaten by more.

It moved United off bottom place in the first division and gave rise to the thought that they might yet avoid the fatal attraction of relegation as they did last season. But that is for tomorrow. Yesterday was for savouring a special victory as the two sides met for the first time in the first division in 23 years.

Whether or not it was the return of Brian Deane, the England forward, after an absence of nearly two months with glandular fever which inspired them, but United were admirably positive for a side in their predicament. Not for the first time Wednesday were found wanting in terms

of commitment. By the end they had lost their shape and discipline too, and Warhurst was fortunate to receive only a yellow card for a blatant example of the professional foul on Bryson.

"I was very disappointed in our performance," Trevor Francis, the Wednesday manager, said. "That is not the way to play a derby. They played with far more passion than we did. It was quite evident that a lot of our players had never played in a derby game of this proportion."

THE Wales manager, Terry Yorath, today reacted philosophically to the news of Dean Saunders' three-match ban for violent conduct.

The Liverpool forward received the Uefa ban last night after he was sent off during the Wales European championship defeat in Germany, last month, for a tackle on the midfielder player, Thomas Doll. Saunders has already served the first of those matches, by missing the 1-0 win over Luxembourg in Cardiff, on

Wednesday. Yorath said: "It is what we expected - but if we don't go through to the finals in Sweden at least it means that he won't miss any of our World Cup qualifying matches."

"He can still play in friendlies and I still intend to use him because effectively he is not banned until 1994 when the next round of European championship qualifiers start."

Wales will qualify for the finals in Sweden next summer

Having completely missed a corner from Bradshaw he knew little about what followed as Deane's header was cleared off the line by King and then rebounded off Woods' head for another corner.

Wednesday's comedy of errors took on more serious consequences for them when, nearly three minutes into first-half injury-time, Warhurst collided heavily with Sheridan, leaving Gannon free to put Bryson clear. Woods could only parry his shot into

the path of Whitehouse who scored easily.

It was a good day for Tracey, recently restored after a shoulder injury, to stand his corner. One save he made in the 58th minute proved to be the turning point.

Williams had suddenly come alive on the right wing and when he danced around Cowan the goal yawned before him. However, he chose instead to lay the ball off to Wilson whose close range shot was brilliantly smothered by the goalkeeper.

Deane's goal ensured against any last-minute aberrations on the part of United's excellent defence and Whitehouse came close to claiming a second goal with a ferocious drive which King cleared off the line with what United claimed was his hand.

Saunders banned by Uefa

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Inspired Sampras reaches new peak

FROM ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
IN FRANKFURT

FOR the second time since the Masters moved from New York to Frankfurt and became the ATP Tour Championships, the champion will be an American. That much was assured as soon as Ivan Lendl was thrashed by Pete Sampras in the first of the two semi-finals, the biggest humiliation Lendl has suffered in 12 years and 50 matches at this event.

The absence of the defending champion, Andre Agassi, emphatically beaten by Jim Courier in the other semi-final, has also deprived the Germans of a consolation for the defeats of their two champions - Boris Becker and Michael Stich - in the qualifying group. Agassi, at least, puts on a show. Sampras, and his best friend, Courier, might warm the hearts of the ticket-holders in Florida or California, but not those outside the

Festhalle in Frankfurt. Courier, though, has well understood the irony of the American dominance in the new financial capital of tennis. "It's the green stuff that makes the world go around," the top seed said after his 6-3, 7-5 win over Agassi. "I think there is more of it over here than there is in New York. That seems to be the pattern now. Tennis is following the dollar." And the deutschmark. Germany will host the championships for another four years.

The Germans are not quite sure what to make of Sampras. He plays brilliant tennis, but with the casual air of a man digging a hole in the road. He serves, like Becker, with a siletto finality, and hits his ground strokes with such hypnotic rhythm, opponents and audience are reduced to dumb admiration. If any tennis player would whistle while he worked, it would be Sampras.

Even amid the tension of his tie-break against Becker in

their group match, with the whole hall waiting to explode at every error, he refused to cast off his ring of calmness. Three times he rifled returns back to Becker's shoelaces, twice more he gently stroked backhands down the line, once he met a full-blooded Becker return with an Ederbergian deadening of the wrists on the volley. Then, having taken the



Sampras: superb display

one set he needed to qualify, he put his feet up and let the match flow away. Later he described Becker as the No. 1 player in the world. "I tend to be a bit more up and down than he is," Sampras explained.

Put the two halves of his year together and a picture of inconsistency emerges. Not able to win a match until mid-summer, he was beaten by such household names as Mark Keil (at Queen's) and Rodolpho Gilbert (Key Biscayne). Yet, from late July, he was largely unbeatable, winning two titles and reaching the final of a third, event within a month. That form has continued through the indoor season, which Lendl feels is his strongest suit, and reached a climax in a savaging of Lendl on Saturday.

Had the five-times Masters champion not clawed back three games when Sampras stood at 6-2, 5-0, the beating could have been even worse

than the final 6-2, 6-3. Sampras, aged 20, admitted that he had played close to the perfect match. "Everything I hit turned to gold. It just came together."

Courier knew he had to lift his game to reach the final and the sight of Agassi, who is not exactly his cup of tea, was motivation enough to forget his listlessness and his dislike of playing indoors. Besides, there is \$1.02 million worth of green stuff to be won.

Mark Petchey, of Britain, continued his recent improvement, by winning a \$25,000 challenger event in Christchurch, New Zealand, yesterday. The unseeded Petchey, who made such a successful Davis Cup debut against Thomas Muster in September, beat Feron Whiter of the Netherlands, 7-5, 7-6.

Hutchins's plea, page 33

Clash over racing authority

By RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

A CLASH between the Jockey Club and the rest of racing over the shape of a new governing body to run the sport appears inevitable.

A confidential blueprint prepared by the Honorary Advisory Council (HAC), the sport's representative think-tank, recommends a wide spectrum of nominees should be on the main board of a new body, including trainers, jockeys, vets, and breeders.

The HAC paper is in marked contrast to the Jockey Club's thinking on power-sharing. Racing's present rulers believe any new body should consist mainly of themselves, owners and racecourse representatives.

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Outspoken Higgins tests snooker's patience

By PHIL YATES

ALEX Higgins is in trouble again. Suspended for the whole of last season after a series of disciplinary infringements, Higgins faces a call that he be banned permanently from snooker following his eccentric behaviour at the UK Open on Saturday.

Higgins's antics during and after his match with Stephen Hendry, the world No. 1, prompted one board member of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association (WPBSA) to describe Higgins as "a demented, raving lunatic" and a bizarre evening was capped by a

soliloquy from the Irishman, a perfect counterpoint to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, which was playing in an adjoining chamber at the Preston Guildhall.

Ian Doyle, a WPBSA board member, alleged that Higgins used abusive language to Hendry as the players shook hands at the end of their fourth-round match. A complaint about remarks Higgins made during the match will be submitted to the WPBSA, the game's governing body, by Hendry, who won 9-4. John Street, the referee, and Ann Yates, the tournament director, also will be reporting Higgins for his behaviour.

Doyle, who is also Hendry's manager, claimed that Higgins approached Hendry during the interval and said: "Hello, I'm the devil." In Doyle's view, that constituted intimidation.

Higgins's version of events was somewhat different. "I'm afraid I didn't say that. I just said, 'well done Stephen, you were a bit lucky,'" he said.

Higgins had been reluctant to conduct his mandatory post-match press conference in front of a BBC television film crew.

Following a heated discussion with Yates, he reluctantly but could not resist an act of defiance, turning his coat inside out to display an obscene logo. Higgins, aged 42, then embarked on a rambling criticism of everything about Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White or Steve Davis. "I'll be doubly ready next time I play them because my game is back." But after this latest outburst, there may not be a next time.

Doyle said: "He's a demented, raving lunatic. Snooker is bigger than Higgins. He has to be removed from the game. He's a menace to himself and everyone around him."

Higgins's suspension, last year resulted from "infringements including physically

wonder ten times better than him or Davis. I'll come back to sort these guys out."

"I can only say one thing about Stephen Hendry. I'll be doubly ready next time I play them because my game is back." But after this latest outburst, there may not be a next time.

Doyle said: "He's a demented, raving lunatic. Snooker is bigger than Higgins. He has to be removed from the game. He's a menace to himself and everyone around him."

Higgins's suspension, last year resulted from "infringements including physically

assaulting an official at the world championship" and threatening to have Dennis Taylor "shot" at an earlier tournament.

Hendry admits that he has no respect for Higgins as a person but, as with others, respects the skills which brought Higgins the world championship in 1972 and 1982.

Higgins remains, arguably, snooker's biggest attraction. But few within the game would mourn his departure.

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